
ABDEL ELBASH, MD

INFORMED CONSENT FOR CATARACT SURGERY

WHAT IS A CATARACT AND HOW IS IT TREATED?

The lens in the eye can become cloudy and hard, a condition known as a cataract. Cataracts can develop from normal aging, from an eye injury, or if you have taken medications known as steroids. Cataracts may cause blurred vision, dulled vision, sensitivity to light and glare, and/or ghost images. If the cataract changes vision so much that it interferes with your daily life, the cataract may need to be removed. Surgery is the only way to remove a cataract. You can decide not to have the cataract removed. If you don't have the surgery, your vision loss from the cataract will continue to get worse. Currently, there is no other treatment available for cataract.

HOW WILL REMOVING THE CATARACT AFFECT MY VISION?

The goal of cataract surgery is to correct the decreased vision that was caused by the cataract. During the surgery, the ophthalmologist (eye surgeon) removes the cataract and puts in a new artificial lens called an intraocular lens or IOL. Cataract surgery will not correct other causes of decreased vision, such as glaucoma, diabetes, or age-related macular degeneration. Most people still need to wear glasses or contact lens after cataract surgery for either near and/or distance vision and astigmatism.

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR RISKS OF CATARACT SURGERY?

All operations and procedures are risky and can result in unsuccessful results, complications, injury, or even death, from both known and unknown causes. The major risks of cataract surgery include, but are not limited to bleeding; infection; injury to parts of the eye and nearby structures from the anesthesia, the operation itself, or pieces of the lens that cannot be removed; high eye pressure; a detached retina, and a droopy eyelid.

Depending upon your eye and the type of IOL, you may have increased night glare or halos, double vision, ghost images, impaired depth perception, blurry vision, and trouble driving at night. In addition, the IOL may later need to be repositioned or replaced.

Depending upon the type of anesthesia, other risks are possible, including cardiac and respiratory problems, and, in rare cases, death.

There is no guarantee that cataract surgery will improve your vision. As a result of the surgery and/or anesthesia, it is possible that your vision could be made worse. In some cases, complications may occur weeks, months or even years later. These and other complications may result in poor vision, total loss of vision, or even loss of the eye in rare situations. You may need additional treatment or surgery to treat these complications.

PATIENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF RISKS

Dr. Elbash has informed me that I have a visually significant cataract. The treatment discussed by Dr. Elbash for this condition is cataract surgery with intraocular lens implant.

Just as there may be benefits to the procedure(s) proposed, I also understand that medical and surgical procedures involve risks. These risks include but are not limited to allergic reaction, bleeding, infections, adverse side effects of drugs, need for second surgery, blindness and even loss of the eye (extremely rare).

I understand that it is impossible for the doctor to inform me of every possible complication that may occur. By signing below, I agree that my doctor has answered all of my questions, that I have been offered a copy of this consent form, and that I understand and accept the risks, benefits, and alternatives of cataract surgery.

I wish to have a cataract operation with intraocular lens implant in my RIGHT/ LEFT eye.

Name of Patient

Patient Signature (or person authorized to sign for patient)

Date

Witness

Date

Surgeon

Date