



Accurate, Safe, Corrective Laser Vision Specialists

CONSENT TO HAVE PRK SURGERY

This information is to help you make an informed decision about having Photo-Refractive Keratectomy (PRK) surgery to treat your nearsightedness, farsightedness, and/ or astigmatism. Take as much time as you wish to make a decision about signing this form. You are encouraged to ask any questions and have them answered to your satisfaction before you give your permission for surgery. Every surgery has risks as well as benefits and each person must evaluate this risk/benefit ration for himself/herself in light of the information presented.

Spectacles and contact lenses are the most common method of correcting nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia), and astigmatism. When tolerated well, they are likely to be a good alternative to PRK surgery. Refractive surgery is continually evolving and other refractive procedures may be available as an alternative to PRK. You should also be aware that having any refractive procedure could potentially disqualify you from some professions, including the military and certain law enforcement agencies.

The surgery is performed under a topical anesthetic (eye drops). PRK permanently changes the shape of the cornea as a result of removing thin layers of tissue from the surface of the cornea with the light from an excimer laser. This causes the center of the cornea to flatten in the case of nearsightedness, or steepen in the case of farsightedness or become more rounded in the case of astigmatism, which changes the focusing power of the cornea. Although the goal of PRK is to improve vision to the point of not being dependent of glasses or contact lenses, or to the point of wearing thinner (or weaker) glasses, this result is not guaranteed.

You should understand that PRK surgery will not prevent you from developing naturally occurring eye problems such as glaucoma, cataracts, retinal degeneration or detachment. After the procedure you should avoid rubbing the eye. Also, PRK does not correct the condition known as presbyopia (or aging of the eye) which occurs to most people around age 40 and may require them to wear reading glasses for close-up work. People over 40 that have their nearsightedness corrected may find that they need reading glasses for clear, close vision.

During pregnancy your refractive error can fluctuate which could influence your results. If you know you are pregnant or attempting to become pregnant within the next three months, it is important that you advise your doctor immediately. You should also tell your doctor about any medications that you are taking such as hormone replacement therapy or antihistamines as they may influence healing.

POTENTIAL RISKS OF PRK INCLUDE:

1. **LOSS OF VISION.** PRK surgery can possibly cause loss of vision or loss of best-corrected vision. This can be due to infection or irregular scarring or other causes, and unless successfully controlled by antibiotics, steroids or other necessary treatment could even cause loss of the infected eye. Vision loss can be due to the cornea healing irregularly which could add astigmatism and make wearing glasses or contact lenses necessary and useful vision could be lost
2. **VISUAL SIDE EFFECTS.** Other complications and conditions that can occur with PRK surgery include: Anisometropia (difference in power between the two eyes); aniseikonia (difference in image size between the two eyes); double vision; hazy vision; fluctuating vision during the day and from day to day; increased sensitivity to light which may be incapacitating for some time and may not completely go away; glare and halos around lights which may not completely go away. Some of the conditions may affect your ability to drive and judge distances and driving should only be done when you are certain your vision is adequate.

3.

4.

6.

OVERCORRECTION AND UNDERCORRECTION. PRK surgery may not give you the result you desired. If after the procedure you are either undercorrected or overcorrected, it may be possible or necessary to have additional surgery to fine-tune or enhance the initial result. If you were nearsighted, overcorrection could result in farsightedness. If you were farsighted, overcorrection should result in nearsightedness. Overcorrections, especially when treating farsightedness, often diminish with time but could be permanent. It is also possible that your initial results could regress over time.

CORNEAL HAZE: It is common for PRK patients to develop some degree of corneal haze, which in some cases, may not go away completely. If the haze is severe, re-treatment may be necessary. Corneal haze could cause loss of best-corrected vision and rarely, the need for a partial or full thickness corneal transplant using a donor cornea. Topical corticosteroid drops may also be required to reduce the development of haze for a couple of months. However, if steroids are used for a number of months in multiple doses per day, some individuals will develop a condition called glaucoma, which could permanently damage the optic nerve. Cataracts can also be the result of using topical steroids for too long.

OTHER RISKS: Additional reported complications include: corneal ulcer formation; endothelial cell loss, epithelial healing defects; ptosis (droopy eye lid). There are also potential complications due to anesthesia and medications, which may involve other parts of your body. Since it is impossible to state all potential risks of any surgery, this form is incomplete. I

FUTURE COMPLICATIONS: You should be aware that there are other complications that could occur that have not been reported before the creation of this consent form as PRK surgery has been performed only since the late 1980's and longer-term results may reveal additional risks and complications.

POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS: After your surgery you will be given medications and instructions to help prevent infection and control healing. It is imperative that you follow ALL instructions exactly as they are given to you. It is also imperative that all follow-up visits be kept as directed.

In signing this form, you are stating that you have read this

Consent form and although it contains medical terms,

which you may not completely understand, you have had the opportunity to ask questions and had them answered to your satisfaction.

You also give your permission for medical data concerning your operation and related treatment and any video recordings of your surgery to be released to physicians and others demonstrating a "need to know" for clinical study. I

To assure that you have understood the information presented, please copy the following statement in your own handwriting: I

"I understand the information presented and am willing to accept the fact that I may need glasses or contact lenses or further surgery following PRK to achieve my best possible level of vision."

Please initial after each of the following statements:

It has been explained to me that the proper way to look at refractive surgery is to view the procedure as a means of decreasing my dependence on glasses and/ or contact lenses. I realize that I am not having refractive surgery performed expecting a guarantee of 20/20 vision.

The phenomenon of presbyopia has been explained to me to my satisfaction and I am aware of the need for reading glasses after age 40 to 45.

I understand that an enhancement is not advised if I achieve an uncorrected vision of 20/25. I understand that

glasses or contact lenses will be advised for increasing my vision from 20/25 to 20/20 or even possibly better than 20/20.

I understand that glasses or contact lenses may be necessary to provide me with my best level of correction after re&active surgery .

I am making an informed decision in giving my permission to have Photo-Refractive Keratectomy (PRK) surgery performed on my -right eye -left eye -both eyes.

Signature of Patient:

Signature of Witness:

Signature of Surgeon:

Date:

Date:

Date:

Please use this space to write any questions or concerns you still wish to discuss wiili ilie doctor or staff:

QUESTIONS ON PRK INFORMED CONSENT

The following questions cover important infomlation. Please circle your answer. The correct answers follow these questions.

1. TRUE or F ALSE: PRK will pemlanendy change the shape of your cornea.
2. TRUE or F ALSE: There are no guarantees as to exacdy how well you will see after the procedure.
3. TRUE or F ALSE: PRK is the only way to correct your vision.
4. TRUE or FALSE: After the surgery, follow-up visits are not important.
5. TRUE or F ALSE: You may experience vision irregularities such as haze, halos, and glare, which in some cases could be pemlanent.
6. TRUE or FALSE: I may experience mild to moderate discomfort for several days after the procedure.
7. TRUE or F ALSE: Overcorrections and undercorrections can always be retreated.
8. TRUE or FALSE: PRK will eliminate the need for reading glasses when you are over 40 years of age.
9. TRUE or FALSE: The infomlation you have been given covered all risks, side effects and complications that could possibly occur with PRK surgery.
10. TRUE or F ALSE: You understand that PRK is a relatively new procedure and that the long-teml risks may not yet be fully known.

Answers:

1. TRUE: The purpose of PRK is to permanendy change the shape of your cornea.
2. TRUE: There are no guarantees as to how well you will see after PRK.
3. F ALSE: PRK is an alternative to glasses and contact lenses. There may also be other refractive surgical procedures that could treat your refractive error.
4. FALSE: It is extremely important that you comply with your doctors' post-operative instructions and keep all follow-up appointments.
5. TRUE: These side effects are commonly experienced to some degree following PRK. It is also possible they may not go away completely.
6. TRUE: Some patients report mild to moderate pain for a short time after the procedure. Pain medication will be made available.

7. F ALSE: Re-treatment may be required to obtain the best level of corrected vision, however this is only possible if your surgeon feels it will help.
8. F ALSE: PRK does not treat a condition know as presbyopia which occurs to most people above the age of 40 and requires them to wear reading glasses for close work.
9. F ALSE: The information presented does not cover all possible risks, side effects and complications of PRK.
10. TRUE: PRK as we know it has only been performed for a relatively short time and long term complications may not be known.

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