

## CONSENT FOR REPAIR OF RETINAL DETACHMENT

### DESCRIPTION:

A retinal detachment occurs typically because of a tear in the retina, which allows fluid to migrate through and get under the retina, causing the retina to separate from the eye wall. This can result in a loss of part of the field of vision or a total loss of vision depending on the degree of the detachment.

### INDICATION FOR SURGERY:

The severity of the detachment, the location and number of tears associated with the detachment, and the presence of scar tissue, all factor in to how a retinal detachment is repaired. If multiple tears are present, the tears are on the bottom of the eye, or scar tissue has developed, surgery will be recommended in most cases.

### SURGERY:

#### **Scleral buckle**

A scleral buckle is often times performed by itself or in combination with a vitrectomy (see below). A scleral buckle involves the placement of a band about the size of a rubber band around the outside of the eye. It indents the eye wall towards the retina and helps to seal the tear(s) that caused the retinal detachment. The scleral buckle is left permanently in place.

#### **Vitrectomy**

A vitrectomy involves the removal of the gel that fills the eye. This procedure can help relieve the traction that caused the retina to tear. After the gel is removed, it is often replaced with a temporary gas bubble (**fluid gas exchange**) called C3F8. The gas bubble floats inside the eye and helps to flatten the retina. The gas bubble dissolves on its own and is replaced with a clear fluid over a 5-6 week period. Laser (**endolaser**) is often used during surgery to tack the retina in place. If scar tissue is identified on the retina, it will be removed (**membrane peel**) in an effort to make the retina more mobile and allow it to go into its normal position. If there is a large amount of scar tissue, and the doctor feels that a longer pushing action than a gas bubble provides will be needed, **silicone oil** may be used. Silicone oil is a very clear, thick fluid that remains in the eye for as long as the doctor feels necessary, but is typically removed within 3-6 months. Sometimes a **scleral buckle** (see above) is done at the same time as a vitrectomy.

### ANESTHESIA:

Most surgeries are done under local anesthesia. Medicine is given through an I.V. for sedation and a local anesthetic will be placed around the eye that will last 5-6 hours. General anesthesia is recommended if patients have claustrophobia, are very anxious, have back problems, or if the surgery is anticipated to take longer than an hour.

### BENEFITS:

The primary goal in repairing a retinal detachment is anatomical success (putting the retina back where it should be). Once this is accomplished, hopefully vision will improve. It is impossible to determine how much vision a person will regain once the retina is attached. Re-attachment of the retina can be accomplished 90% of the time. The reason it would fail 10% of the time is because of scar tissue formation. If scar tissue forms, it can cause your retina to re-detach and

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## COMPLICATIONS OF SURGERY:

1. Failure to accomplish reattachment of the retina, which may result in the need for additional surgery
2. Choroidal detachment (swelling of the tissue below the retina)
3. Bleeding in the eye
4. Infection in the eye
5. Infection in the scleral buckle
6. Swelling of the macula (center of vision)
7. Change in refractive error (may be more near-sighted)
8. Double vision
9. Ptosis (droopy eyelid)
10. Cataract
11. Loss of vision
12. Loss of the eye

## COMPLICATIONS OF ANESTHESIA:

1. Retrobulbar hemorrhage
2. Ocular perforation
3. Injury to the optic nerve
4. Loss of vision
5. Stroke
6. Heart attack
7. Death

## PATIENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF RISKS

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 the proposed surgery.

I wish to have a \_\_\_\_\_ OPERATION

on my **RIGHT / LEFT** eye.

## ANESTHESIA: LOCAL / GENERAL

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PATIENT SIGNATURE

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DATE