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Consent for Floater Ablation Laser Surgery (Vitreolysis)

In giving my permission for this surgery, I declare that I understand the following information:

- Eye floaters are dark spots that float in the vision. They are common. In some cases the floaters absorb by themselves in a few weeks to months or are small enough not to be a problem. However, if floaters continue to cause a visual problem, and they are not close to the retina or the natural lens, a laser can often vaporize them, break them into smaller less noticeable floaters that are more easily absorbed, or move them out of the central vision.
- The procedure is relatively straightforward, painless, and takes approximately 10-30 minutes. After your pupil is dilated, a topical anesthetic drop and a special magnifying contact lens are placed on the eye. The beam of the YAG laser is then used to treat the floaters. When the laser is fired, there is a small flash of light and a snapping sound. At the same time you frequently will see something that seems to be falling down inside your eye. These are tiny gas bubbles created by the laser that are actually moving upward in the eye. These bubbles will disappear by the following day. There are no restrictions on activities following the procedure. More than one session is sometimes required. In some cases, the floater(s) cannot be vaporized, broken up, or moved. In addition, some patients may experience floaters that cannot be visualized by the surgeon and therefore cannot be treated.
- The procedure is only used to treat opacities within the vitreous. The vitreous itself is not removed. If the patient has many floaters, all the floaters can not be removed with any reasonable number of shots. In this situation the goal is to obtain a significant improvement.
- Complications are quite unlikely, but can occur. Hemorrhage, retinal tear or detachment, damage to the lens (cataract), glaucoma (elevated eye pressure), and others are possible. Very rarely floaters that are partially vaporized or broken up or untreated may move to a location where they can not be treated further with the laser and as a result may be more noticeable than before surgery. Any listing of complications is incomplete.
- The first formal research study on the efficacy and safety of laser treatment of floaters was done by Dr. John R. Karickhoff. There was a one year follow up on his 200 patients. The study was designated a *Non-Significant Risk Device Study* by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, done under FDA guidelines, and supervised by the Institutional Review Board of INOVA Fairfax Hospital in Virginia. His results were: *improvement in 95% of patients and no significant complications.*
- The only alternative treatment for floaters is the vitrectomy procedure. In this procedure, three ports are placed into the eye and the floaters are cut up and aspirated. Cataract formation, retinal tears and detachments are possible side effects. Therefore, this procedure is seldom recommended for isolated eye floaters.

- The purpose of this consent form is to give you a reasonable explanation of this ophthalmic laser treatment. You are encouraged to ask any questions you may have regarding your treatment. After reading this form, you are requested to sign the following statement:
- I UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION PRESENTED AND AM WILLING TO ACCEPT THE POSSIBLE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH VITREOLYSIS. I WISH TO HAVE THIS LASER SURGERY ON MY EYE(S).

I am making an informed decision in giving my permission to have *Floater Ablation Surgery* on my:

Right Eye *Left Eye* *Both Eyes*

Signature of Patient: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Witness: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Surgeon: _____ Date: _____