



EYE PHYSICIANS OF NORTHAMPTON, P.C.
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INFORMED CONSENT FOR SURGICAL ASTIGMATISM CORRECTION

Patient Name: _____ DOB: _____

Astigmatism causes blurry vision. Normally, eyes are round (like a baseball). With astigmatism, the eye is long (like a football). Many people with cataracts have astigmatism. If you have astigmatism, wearing glasses or contact lenses can help you see more clearly. There are two options to correct astigmatism during cataract surgery:

1. Your surgeon can put a special type of IOL called a **toric IOL** in the eye that has astigmatism.
2. Your surgeon can make a **cut called a relaxing incision** in the cornea to change its shape. The goal of a relaxing incision is to make your cornea rounder so your vision is clearer.

You have to pay extra for these services. **Medicare and private insurance do not pay for these.**

Risks. As with all surgery and medical procedures, problems can happen. In addition to all the risks for cataract surgery, here are some common or serious risks for astigmatism correction:

- **The toric IOL** may be placed in the wrong position or may shift position after surgery is over. The toric IOL may not correct all of the astigmatism (under-correction). Or it could correct it too much (overcorrection) or change the type of astigmatism you have. If you are under-corrected or over-corrected, you may continue to have blurry vision. You may need to wear glasses or have another procedure to make your vision clearer.
- **Relaxing incisions** may cause vision loss. They can damage or scar your cornea. They may not correct all of the astigmatism (under-correction). Or they could correct it too much (overcorrection) and change the type of astigmatism you have. If you are under-corrected or over-corrected, you may continue to have blurry vision. You may need to wear glasses or have another procedure to make your vision clearer.
- Astigmatism may change or come back as you get older and cause blurry vision again.
- You may need to wear glasses after getting a toric IOL or having a relaxing incision.

By signing below, you consent (agree) that:

- You read (or someone read it to you) and you understand this informed consent form.
- The eye surgeon or staff offered you a copy of this informed consent form.
- The eye surgeon or staff answered your questions about astigmatism correction.
- You understand that you may need to wear glasses after surgery.

Please check the box about how you choose to correct astigmatism during cataract surgery.

- Toric IOL.** I wish to have my right eye OR left eye corrected with a **TORIC lens**.
- Relaxing incision.** I wish to have my right eye OR left eye corrected with a **relaxing incision**.

Signature of Patient (or authorized person) Date/Time

Signature of Witness Date/Time

Signature of Surgeon Date/Time