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## INFORMED CONSENT FOR SELECTIVE LASER TRABECULOPLASTY (SLT)

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

You have glaucoma. Glaucoma is a disease defined by optic nerve damage. The optic nerve connects the eye to the brain and may be damaged by high pressure inside the eye. Glaucoma gets worse over time and cannot be reversed. If not treated, it causes loss of eyesight or blindness.

**Your ophthalmologist recommends selective laser trabeculoplasty.** The ophthalmologist will use a laser to open the drainage system in your eye in order to lower your eye pressure. The goal of laser trabeculoplasty surgery is to help you keep the vision you have now. It will not bring back vision you have already lost from glaucoma. It may reduce the eye pressure enough to avoid further surgery or medications, but you may need to keep taking the eye drops you are using now to treat glaucoma.

**Alternatives.** The best choices for glaucoma treatment are those that lower the eye pressure with the fewest risks to the patient's eyesight and overall health. Usually eye drop medications or laser therapy are used first. Often, multiple medications are needed to get the desired pressure level. If medications and laser treatment do not work well enough, or if patients have trouble using eye drops because of cost, side effects, and other difficulties, then glaucoma surgery is required. There are many types of glaucoma surgery. You can decide to have no treatment. Without treatment, your glaucoma will get worse and you will lose more vision. You may even go blind.

**Risks.** As with any surgery, there are risks with laser trabeculoplasty. In some cases, the surgery may not lower your eye pressure or control your glaucoma even when done properly. Your ophthalmologist cannot tell you about every risk. Here are some of the most common and serious risks:

- Failure to lower eye pressure and need for additional treatments, including surgery. Even when effective, it typically takes several weeks to see the effect of this laser and determine if further treatment is needed.
- You may have an increase in eye pressure or inflammation shortly after the procedure. Eye drops are typically prescribed for the first few days after the procedure to prevent inflammation. You should continue any drops that you typically take for eye pressure. Your pressure will also be measured shortly after the procedure.
- Although rare and unusual, there may be bleeding with the eye, a corneal abrasion, cataract, or increase in the pressure in the eye requiring different and more extensive treatment. Other risks include loss of vision, pain, irritation, or discomfort in or around the eye.

By signing below I authorize **my physician** to perform **LASER TRABECULOPLASTY** on my **RIGHT / LEFT (circle)** eye. I understand this consent form and that regular follow-up is required after surgery.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Patient (or authorized person)      Date/Time

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness      Date/Time

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Surgeon      Date/Time