**THIS IS A SAMPLE FORM: REVIEW AND REVISE AS NEEDED**

**Keep each section together on the same page: move it as needed.**

**Remove the section in red.**

**Add your letterhead to the first page of the consent form.**

**Change font size for large print.**

**Version 2/12/20**

Informed consent for laser suture lysis

You have already had glaucoma surgery. During that surgery, the ophthalmologist (eye surgeon) placed sutures (stiches). Your ophthalmologist now recommends using a laser to open one or more of the sutures to allow fluid to drain out of your eye. This is called laser suture lysis. The sutures are removed after these glaucoma surgeries:

* **Trabeculectomy or Express shunt surgery (“filtering surgery”).** The ophthalmologist created a channel in the sclera (the white wall of the eye) for fluid to leave the eye and lower your eye pressure. At the time of surgery, the ophthalmologist placed sutures in the drainage channel to control the amount of fluid that leaves the eye. Now your ophthalmologist wants to remove one or more sutures.
* **During aqueous shunt (also called “tube shunt”) surgery.** The ophthalmologist implanted a small plastic device in your eye to shunt (move) fluid out of your eye. At the time of surgery, the ophthalmologist closed this device with sutures. Now your ophthalmologist wants to open one or more sutures in order to allow fluid to drain out of your eye.

**Benefits (how the surgery can help).** The goal of laser suture lysis is to lower your eye pressure and keep the vision you have now. It will not bring back vision you have already lost from glaucoma. It will not cure your glaucoma. The surgery may lower your eye pressure enough so you don’t need more surgery or additional medications. But you may need to keep taking your glaucoma medications.

**Alternatives (options and choices).**

* Glaucoma medications, which may not lower your eye pressure enough.
* Opening the sutures with a surgical instrument instead of a laser. This way of opening the sutures can cause an infection.
* No treatment. If you do not have this surgery to open a suture, the drain or shunt implant may not work. Your eye pressure could then become too high. This may cause more optic nerve damage from glaucoma and more vision loss.

**Risks (problems the surgery can cause).** Like all surgeries, there are risks with laser suture lysis. Your ophthalmologist cannot tell you all the risks. Here are some of the most common and serious risks:

* Failure to lower the eye pressure
* Eye pressure becoming too low
* Corneal abrasion
* Inflammation
* Loss of central or side vision
* Blurry vision and light sensitivity
* Bleeding in the eye
* Collection of fluid in back of the eye
* Need for additional surgery
* Pain, irritation, or discomfort in the eye or surrounding tissues that may last
* Problems during surgery that need immediate treatment. Your surgeon may need to do more surgery right away or change your surgery to treat this new problem.
* Other risks. There is no guarantee that laser suture lysis will improve your vision. It is possible that the surgery may make your vision worse, cause blindness, or even the loss of an eye. These problems can appear weeks, months, or even years after surgery.
* Careful follow-up is required after surgery. After your eye heals, you will still need regular eye exams to monitor your glaucoma and watch for other eye problems.

**Laser suture lysis is performed under topical anesthesia**, which means that eye drops are used to numb the eye. You must be able to cooperate with the surgeon to make sure you do not move your eye during surgery. Risks of topical anesthesia include injury to the eye by movement during surgery, drooping of the eyelid, and increased sensation during the surgery.

**By signing below, you consent (agree) that:**

* You read this informed consent form or had it read to you.
* You were told you need to have the sutures removed.
* Your questions about the surgery were answered.
* You consent to have the ophthalmologist perform laser suture lysis on your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (“right,” “left”) eye.

Patient (or person authorized to sign for patient) Date