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Informed consent for Hydrus Microstent surgery

Glaucoma is a disease defined by optic nerve damage. The optic nerve connects the eye to the brain. Fluid imbalance or eye pressure problems damage the optic nerve. Glaucoma slowly gets worse over time and cannot be reversed. If it is not treated, it causes a painless loss of eyesight. In some cases, it can lead to blindness.

Alternatives (choices and options). 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.

Hydrus Microstent Surgery. This is a newer type of glaucoma surgery called "minimally-invasive glaucoma surgery" (MIGS). MIGS alters the eye's drainage system to lower the eye pressure and reduce the need for medications. MIGS have fewer complications than traditional glaucoma surgeries. The iStent is always performed in conjunction with cataract surgery It is placed through an incision that is less than 3 mm long. The Hydrus Microstent is placed in an area of the eye called Schlemm's Canal. The stent is made of an alloy of nickel and titanium, and will allow fluid to leave your eye. It is safe to have an MRI with a Hydrus stent.

Benefits (how the surgery can help). The goal of Hydrus surgery is to lower your eye pressure and help you keep the vision you have now. It will not bring back vision you have already lost from glaucoma. It can help reduce or eliminate the need for glaucoma eye drops.

Risks (problems the surgery can cause). As with any surgery, there are risks with Hydrus surgery. In some cases, the surgery may not lower your eye pressure or control your glaucoma even when it is properly performed. Here are some of the most common and serious risks that can occur during or after the surgery:

- Failure to control eye pressure, with the need for eye drops, laser treatment, or another surgery
- Worse or lost vision
- Pressure that is too low

- Damage to the eyeball
- Infection
- Bleeding in the eye
- Inflammation
- Pain, irritation, or discomfort in the eye or surrounding tissues that may persist
- Drooping of eyelid
- Double vision
- 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 the surgery will improve your vision. The surgery or anesthesia might 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.