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**Informed consent for XEN 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.

**XEN Microstent surgery.** The XEN Microstent is a newer type of glaucoma surgery called "minimally-invasive glaucoma surgery" (MIGS). MIGS provides control of the eye pressure at lower risk than more traditional glaucoma surgeries. It alters the eye's drainage system to lower the eye pressure and reduce the need for medications. The stent is made of gelatin-like material the size of an eyelash. Fluid leaves the eye through the stent and your eye pressure goes down. The fluid collects under your upper eyelid in a structure called a bleb. It is then absorbed into your blood stream.

**(Anti-scarring medication is sometimes used at the time of surgery to keep scar tissue from forming.** Scar tissue can also block the stent after surgery. Mitomycin-C (MMC) is the most commonly used anti-scarring medication for glaucoma surgery. MMC is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in eye surgery. This medication should not be used in women who are pregnant, planning to become pregnant or nursing.)

**Benefits (ways the surgery can help).** The goal of Xen Microstent surgery is to lower your eye pressure and help you keep the vision you have now. It will not bring back vision you may have already lost from glaucoma.

**Risks (problems the surgery can cause).** As with any surgery, there are risks with the XEN Microstent. The surgery may not lower your eye pressure or control your glaucoma even when it is properly performed. Your ophthalmologist cannot tell you about every risk. Here are some of the most common and serious risks that can occur during of after the surgery:

- Failure to control eye pressure, with the need for eye drops, laser treatment, or another surgery
- Abnormal collection of fluid in the eye, with the need for another surgery
- Worse or lost vision
- Pressure that is too low
- Damage to the eyeball
- Infection
- Bleeding in the eye
- Inflammation
- Cataract (except if you have already had cataract surgery or if you are having cataract surgery at the same time as this glaucoma surgery)
- Pain, irritation, or discomfort in the eye or surrounding tissues that may last.
- Drooping of eyelid
- Double vision
- Large or uncomfortable bleb
- 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. It is possible that the surgery or anesthesia 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.