



# Effectiveness of Informed Consent in Ophthalmic Procedures.

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POS-5297 Financial Interests: MCh, SG, VM: none. AJK: Consultant for Alcon/WaveLight, Avedro.



# Informed Consent

**Definition:** A process involving discussion between a health provider and a patient.

**It is not just about the “signing of a consent form.”**

## Purpose for Clients

- To be informed about therapy aims, scope and purpose,
- To understand alternatives to the proposed therapy,
- To fully understand the expected benefits and anticipated risks of the treatment, and
- To make autonomous, voluntary decisions regarding their participation.



# Written Informed Consent Provides

- ✓ Consistent documentation of informed consent
- ✓ Ease of administrating informed consent forms
- ✓ Standardization of process

## **What a Written Consent must & must not have:**

- Brief paragraphs - Section headers to introduce topics,
- Simple sentence structure,
- Limited use of complex terms/provide lay terms or descriptions,
- Sufficient opportunity to consider whether or not to participate.



# LaserVision Consent Protocol

- Our protocols and procedures have been developed over more than twelve years of clinical experience among our group comprising optometrists and clinical ophthalmic assistants.

The process involves 3 steps:

1. Proper, in-depth and comprehensive patient information and discussion with medical personnel. The entire consent process is video-recorded and is provided to the patient in DVD form.
2. Detailed brochure for each operation provided.
3. A hand-written signed release form by three parties is obtained.
  - ✓ The patient,
  - ✓ His escort, and
  - ✓ Our personnel involved in the process



# LaserVision Consent Examples

## LaserVision.gr

Eye institute for Laser  
 Dr. Anastasios John Kanellopoulos, MD  
 Professor of Ophthalmology  
 NYU Medical School, New York, NY

### INFORMED CONSENT

Surname: .....

I am about to undergo a combination procedure consisting of:

- 1-partial topography-guided PRK followed by
- 2-collagen cross linking

on my ..... right / left / both eyes, by Dr. A. I. Kanellopoulos, MD.

This measure is an attempt to stabilize my keratactasia and possibly avoid a penetrating transplant.

Dr. Kanellopoulos has clearly informed me about the risks and benefits of the procedure, including a possible infection, decrease or loss of the vision acuity and a possibility of re-treatment (enhancement).

I have read the relevant leaflet, and have fully understood the above.  
 All my questions have been answered.

I consent that specific information from my medical record file as well as audiovisual material can be **anonymously** used by the Institute for educational, evaluation and research purposes.

Date

.....

Name of Patient

Signature of Patient

.....

Name of Relative or Escort

Signature of Relative or Escort

.....



## LaserVision.gr

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 17 An. Tsochka, 115 21 Athens, Greece  
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 Dr. Anastasios John Kanellopoulos, MD  
 Professor of Ophthalmology  
 NYU Medical School, New York, NY

### INFORMED CONSENT

Surname: .....

I am about to undergo ..... procedure,

on my ..... (right/left/both eyes) by Dr. Kanellopoulos, MD.

Dr. Kanellopoulos has clearly informed me about the risks and benefits of the procedure, including a possible infection, decrease or loss of the vision acuity and a possibility of re-treatment (enhancement).

I have read the relevant leaflet, and have fully understood the above. All my questions have been answered.

I consent that specific information from my medical record file as well as audiovisual material can be **anonymously** used by the Institute for educational, evaluation and research purposes.

Date

.....

Name of patient

Signature of Patient

.....

Name of Relative

Signature of relative

.....

|



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 www.laservision.gr



Kanellopoulos, MD  
 www.brilliantvision.com



# Conclusions

- ✓ Informed Consent should be included in the pre-operative checklist.
- ✓ Standardization of pre-operative procedure minimizes possible pitfalls.
- ✓ Thorough patient information and consent-approval has proven beneficial to all aspects of our ophthalmic operations.
- ✓ *Ultimate Goal: patient's well-being*

