



Kimberly Cockerham, MD, FACS  
Oculofacial Plastic Surgery  
Eyelid & Orbital Oncology  
Thyroid Eye Disease  
Neuro-Ophthalmology

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

Surgical Procedure: \_\_\_\_\_

Right Eye     Left Eye     Both Eyes

Surgical Procedure: \_\_\_\_\_

Right Eye     Left Eye     Both Eyes

## **INFORMED CONSENT FOR DCR ("Tear drainage surgery to create a new tear drainage pipe")**

### **WHAT CAUSES THE NEED FOR SURGERY?**

Because of age, injury, or chronic sinus disease, the bony tunnel that drains tears from the eye into the nose can become blocked. Tears may then back up and run down the cheeks and, in some cases, an infection can develop underneath the skin between the eye and the nose ("dacryocystitis"). Many patients complain also of a goeey discharge and eye irritation. The goal of surgery is to eliminate tearing, discharge, and irritation, and reduce the risk of infection.

### **HOW IS SURGERY PERFORMED?**

Your tear "holes" (puncta) and tear "pipe" are opened with a scissors and a dilator. Once your "pipes" (your canaliculi, lacrimal sac and nasolacrimal duct) are opened, a plastic plug is placed to keep the "pipes" open while they are healing. This tube is removed in the office several weeks after surgery.

### **HOW WILL SURGERY AFFECT MY VISION OR APPEARANCE?**

Creating a new tear drainage system will help minimize tearing and mucous but NOT UNTIL THE TEAR PLUG (stent) is removed. You will have a small incision in the region near your nose that will heal over time.

### **WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?**

You may decide to live with the tearing, discharge, and irritation that a blocked tear duct can cause. However, if you have had an infection, your doctor will advise surgery to prevent future infections, since these can, in rare circumstances, lead to vision loss.



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**Please initial each of the following to document you have read this carefully.**

**WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT AFTER SURGERY:**

- Itching and bruising for at least two weeks
- Swelling for 2-3 months
- Tearing and irritation until the “plug” is removed
- Inability to wear contact lenses for at least two weeks
- Visible scar

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF SURGERY?**

- The stent may fall out earlier than is ideal
- Bleeding
- Infection
- Failure to keep the “pipes” open with recurrent tearing or infection
- The need for additional surgery

- You may need additional treatment or surgery to treat these complications, the cost of the additional treatment or surgery is NOT included in the fee for this surgery.
- Due to individual differences in anatomy, response to surgery, and wound healing, no guarantees can be made as to your final result.
- For some patients, delayed healing or failure of the surgical procedure may lead to anger, anxiety, depression, or other emotional reactions.

I have:

- Received a copy of this consent
- Had all my questions answered

**This is an elective procedure - you do not have to proceed with surgery unless you feel comfortable with the healing process and the possible risks.**

By signing below, I am confirming that **Dr. Kimberly Cockerham** has answered all of my questions and that I understand and accept the risks and the costs associated with this surgery and future treatments.

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_