

# **In-Office Pterygium Surgery Consent Form**

## **Right Eye/ Left Eye**

### **What is a Pterygia?**

A pterygia is a growth on the cornea (the clear front window of the eye) and the conjunctiva- the thin, filmy membrane that covers the white part of your eye (sclera). These growths are believed to be caused by dry eyes, exposure to wind and dust and ultraviolet sunlight exposure.

### **What is Pterygia surgery?**

Pterygia surgery removes the growth from both the cornea and the sclera and transplants a piece of your conjunctiva from the same eye over the sclera where the pterygia was removed. The transplant has been shown to reduce the chances of the pterygia re-growing.

### **What are treatment alternatives?**

In many cases no treatment is needed. Sometimes eye drops and ointments may be used to reduce inflammation (swelling). You have chosen to have your pterygia removed for cosmetic reasons and you are aware that your insurance company will not be billed for the procedure. If the pterygia threatens your sight, your insurance company may or may not reimburse for the procedure. It has been determined that your pterygia does not threaten your sight and Sedgewick Eye Associates, P.C. will not be billing your insurance company for the procedure. You will be responsible for payment of the pterygia surgery in full.

### **What are the risks of pterygia surgery?**

All operations and procedures are risky and can result in unsuccessful results, complications, and injury from both known and unknown causes. Complications that may occur days, weeks or even months later include but are not limited to: poor vision, loss of the eye, loss of corneal clarity, bleeding, infection, double vision or a droopy eyelid. The pterygia may grow back. Recent research has supported the use of a conjunctival graft from your same eye as a method that has significantly reduced the chances of the pterygia growing back. Dr. Sedgewick will use this grafting technique on your eye. If further surgery is needed due to the pterygia growing back or for complications from the surgery, this will be at your expense. You can reduce the likelihood of the pterygia growing back by being compliant with the post-operative instructions given by Dr. Sedgewick.

### **Conjunctival transplant with glue:**

Pterygia surgery involves the use of a special glue, TISSEEL. This glue is made from human plasma and is an off label use of this product. When a drug or device is approved for medical use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the manufacturer produces a "label" to explain its use. Once a medication is approved by the FDA, physicians may use it "off label" for other purposes if they base its use on sound scientific method and evidence. TISSEEL it has been approved for use in heart bypass surgeries, colostomies and splenic injuries. Although it is possible to get infectious

diseases from the glue, the donor's blood has been screened by the manufacturer for a variety of diseases, is widely used and is regarded as being safe. If you have any religious objections to the use of human products, please let us know. TISSEEL is used to glue the conjunctival flap onto the area where the pterygia was removed in order to reduce the chances of the pterygia coming back.

I have read the consent form above and I understand the risks, benefits and complications as explained to me above. I understand that the use of the glue has not been approved by the FDA for pterygia surgery. Nevertheless, I wish to have TISSEEL used on my eye and I am willing to accept the potential risks that Dr. Sedgewick has discussed with me. I acknowledge that there may be other, unknown risks and that the long-term effects and risks of TISSEEL are not known. I understand that it is impossible to inform me of every possible complication that may occur. By signing below, I agree that Dr. Sedgewick has answered all of my questions and that I consent to the removal of a pterygia in the above identified eye.

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**Patient**

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**Date**

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**Witness**

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**Date**