



## **Surgical Consent for Inguinal Hernia Repair**

### **Diagnosis:**

- You have been diagnosed with an inguinal hernia. This is a hernia that occurs near the groin area. A hernia results when the body wall becomes weak. The intestines can then protrude (stick out) through the weak area.

### **Name of Procedure/Treatment:**

- Inguinal hernia repair, which is the repair of the body wall where the hernia has occurred. Inguinal hernias are the most common types of hernias.

### **Nature and Purpose of proposed treatment:**

- An incision is made on the lower abdomen near the groin area for an open repair. The hernia is surgically repaired so that the intestines no longer protrude (stick out). In some cases, the surgeon will use mesh to repair the weak area. The incision will then be closed using stitches or staples and a dressing will be applied to the area. For a laparoscopic repair, an incision is made at the umbilicus and additional incisions are made below this incision.

### **Risks common to all surgical procedures:**

- Injury to a blood vessel or excessive bleeding. This may require a blood transfusion.
- Infection, which may require the use of antibiotics. In rare cases, another surgical procedure may be necessary to remove the infection.
- Complications with anesthesia. This may include nausea, vomiting, or in rare cases, death.
- Tobacco use, excessive alcohol use and obesity can increase the risk of any surgical procedure or general anesthetic. Any of these factors may substantially affect healing and can result in an increase of major complications including pneumonia, wound infection, blood clots in the legs and lungs, or death.

### **Risks and complications of the proposed treatment:**

- Recurrent hernia formation, which would require further surgery.
- Infection, which may require you to take antibiotics, or have another surgical procedure done
- Bleeding with hematoma formation. A hematoma is a swollen area in which blood has pooled. It may result in an area resembling a large bruise.
- Nerve injury
- Pain after surgery, which may require you to take pain medication.
- Testicular injury with ischemic orchitis (inflammation of testicle) and/or atrophy (shrinkage).
- Injury to underlying organs or intestines that could require another surgical procedure.

### **Risks or complications of the proposed treatment that is specific and unique to the patient:**

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### **Alternative treatments:**

- Wearing of a support garment or a truss.

### **Prognosis if the proposed treatment is NOT accepted:**

- If you choose not to have surgery, your hernia may enlarge. There is a possibility that the hernia may become incarcerated causing strangulation (loss of blood supply) to the organ or organs that are sticking out through the body wall. This would then require emergency surgery to be performed.

