

## INFORMED CONSENT FOR COLONOSCOPY AND UPPER ENDOSCOPY

The doctor requests that you to sign this consent form before he meets with you today. This form will explain the risks that patients' assume when they seek the services of a proctologist. You will have an opportunity to ask your doctor questions regarding the colonoscopy or endoscopy procedure, and you will have a right to decline these procedures at any time.

Your doctor may ask you to consider having a diagnostic procedure called a "colonoscopy or endoscopy". These are procedures in which the doctor inserts a special scope into the gastrointestinal tract. This scope allows the doctor to see inside the stomach or colon, and to perform simple surgical procedures inside the stomach or colon. The removal of polyps and a biopsy of the stomach or colon are the most common surgical procedures done by endoscopy. These procedures are done to aid in the diagnosis of stomach and or colorectal disease, and to prevent the spread of cancer. Your doctor can make no guarantee that the colonoscopy or endoscopy procedure will be successful in making either a diagnosis or a cure. Significant complications from endoscopy are very uncommon (less than 0.3 %), but they do sometimes occur. Risks and alternatives to these procedures are:

- Bleeding – It is possible for some bleeding of the stomach or colon to occur with this procedure. If bleeding should occur, it usually stops by itself. Only in rare cases will a blood transfusion ever be necessary.
- Allergy - Taking the pharmaceutical, nutritional, and or botanical nutraceuticals prescribed by your physician has been shown to minimize the negative effects of medications and anesthesia. However, it is still possible to have a life threatening reaction to one or more of the medications, including to the anesthesia that you will receive during the course of your treatment.
- Perforation – A very rare, but significant complication is a perforation. This is when a hole is made in the lining of the wall of the colon, intestines, esophagus or stomach.
- Unforeseen complications - In addition, it is possible to have unforeseen complications that are not listed here. Some of the complications from this procedure may require major surgery; some of the complications may require blood replacement therapy; some of the complications can cause poor healing wounds; permanent disability; permanent deformity; and scarring.
- Very, very rarely, some of the complications can be fatal.
- Alternatives - There may be alternatives to this procedure available to you, such as the use of other diagnostic tests, virtual colonoscopy, the barium enema, and the barium swallow evaluation. However, these alternative methods carry their own risk of complications and a varying degree of success. Therefore in those patients in whom colonoscopy or endoscopy is indicated, these procedures provide the patient with the best chance of successful diagnosis and treatment and the lowest risk of complications.

**I certify that I have read or had read to me the contents of this form. I understand that there are risks and alternatives to most surgical and diagnostic procedures. I understand that I am encouraged to ask more questions at the time of scheduling, and before the start of any surgery or procedure; and that if I feel uncomfortable for any reason, I have the right to refuse treatment.**

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_