MICRO DIRECT LARYNGOSCOPY WITH VOCAL CORD INJECTION, STRIPPING, OR CO2 LASER EXCISION

**Purpose:** Micro Direct laryngoscopy is a procedure to examine the larynx with a microscopy under anesthesia. It is done to examine the larynx fully without problems with gagging, pain, or motion from swallowing or movement of the vocal cords. If there are lesions on the vocal cords, they are removed or biopsies at the time of the examination. Sometimes, patients suffer from voice disorders that can be treated with Botox or a variety of filling agents (ie collagen). These injections are done under the microscope after the vocal cords are examined.

**Procedure:** The procedure is done in a hospital under general anesthesia. After the patient is asleep, a scope is inserted through the mouth and then suspended so that Kershaw Ear, Nose, and Throat doctors can use both hands. A microscopy is then used to examine the vocal cords and the throat examined. If biopsies or removal of a lesion are necessary this is done through the scope using long thin instruments. Sometimes, a laser is utilized to remove a lesion or to strip the vocal cords of disease. If an injection is to be performed, it is done at this time. The patient is then taken to the recovery room. Most patients stay for an hour or so after the procedure and then go home the same day. Patients can resume a soft diet as soon as the anesthesia wears off.

**Recovery:** You should rest at home with your head elevated after returning home. If a procedure was done on your vocal cords you may be instructed to rest your voice. Most patients are able to resume all of their normal activity (except voice use) by the following day. The throat will be sore for several days after the procedure.

**Risks and Complications**

- Any time a procedure is done involving the vocal cords there is the potential for scarring of the vocal cord. This could lead to worsening of the voice. Permanent hoarseness is not common, but still is a potential complication of the surgery.

- Any time an instrument is passed into the mouth there is a risk of chipping a tooth or knocking a tooth loose. This is a very uncommon complication.

- If a lesion is removed from the vocal cords it does not usually recur, but there is a small chance that it could recur.

- Bleeding and infection are possible, as with any surgery. There is not a high incidence of either of these complications with this type of surgery.

- If a laser is used, there is the chance that the laser can damage areas in the lungs or even cause a fire. This is a very rare complication.

We ask that you sign below to indicate that you have read, understand, and accept the risks and complications of this operation. Alternative treatments have been discussed with me and I want to go ahead with the surgery.