Surgical Consent for Umbilical Hernia Repair

Diagnosis:
• You have been diagnosed with an umbilical hernia. This is a hernia that occurs around the area of the navel (bellybutton). A hernia results when the body becomes weak. The intestines can then protrude (stick out) through the weak area.

Procedure/Treatment:
• Umbilical hernia repair is the closure of the hole in the body wall.

Nature and purpose of proposed treatment:
• An incision is made on the abdomen in the area of the hernia. The hernia will then be surgically repaired and the site will be closed with suture and/or staples. In some cases, surgical mesh will be used to repair the area of the body wall where the hernia occurred.

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 procedure:
• Recurrences of the hernia which may require further surgery
• Hematoma formation (a swollen area where blood has collected). Hematomas resemble a large bruise.
• Infection that may require the use of antibiotics.
• Injury to the underlying bowel (intestine) that could require that another surgical procedure be performed.
• Pain after surgery, which may require the use of pain medication.
• Scarring at the area the incision was made.

Risks or complications of the proposed treatment that is specific and unique to the patient:
____________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Alternative Treatments:
• Observation of the herniated area.

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 (intestines stuck in the hernia) causing strangulation (loss of blood supply) to the intestine that is sticking out through the body wall. This would then require emergency surgery to be performed.

I understand the above information and give my consent to have the described treatment performed.

Patient Signature ___________________________ Physician Signature ___________________________

Date ___________________________ Date ___________________________