

A MESSAGE TO PATIENTS ABOUT MEDICAL / SURGICAL RISKS

- **INFECTION:** Invasion of tissue by bacteria or other germs occurs to some degree whenever a cut, incision, or puncture is made. In most instances, through the natural defense mechanisms of the body, healing of the affected area occurs without difficulty. In some instances, antibiotic medicines are prescribed and at times, additional surgical measures may be necessary to combat infection.
- **HEMORRHAGE:** The cutting of blood vessels causes bleeding and this occurs in every surgical incision. This bleeding is usually controlled without difficulty. At time, blood transfusions are required to replace blood loss. If blood transfusions are given, there are additional risks of liver inflammation, hepatitis, and the possibility of receiving Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). There is no absolute reliable way to predict these unwanted reactions, some of which may be quite serious and even lead to death.
- **DRUG REACTIONS:** Unexpected allergies, lack of proper response to medications or illness caused by the prescribed drugs are possibilities. It is important for you to inform your physician and your anesthesiologist or certified registered nurse anesthetist of any problems you or your family have had with reactions to drugs and which medications you have taken in the past six months, including over-the-counter drugs, especially aspirin.
- **ANESTHESIA REACTIONS:** There may be unusual or unexpected responses to the gases, drugs, or methods used to anesthetize you, which can lead to difficulties with lung, heart, or nerve function. Eating or drinking, before anesthesia increases the risks of vomiting, which may cause significant complications. Inform your anesthesiologist or certified registered nurse anesthetist of any problems you and your family have had with anesthesia.
- **BLOOD VESSEL INFLAMATION AND CLOTTING:** It is impossible to predict the occurrence of blood vessel inflammation and clotting problems. If blood clots form, they can move from where they formed to other areas of the body and cause injury.
- **INJURY TO OTHER ORGANS:** Because of the closeness of the organs to the area being operated on, there may be injury to other organs. The stress of surgery or the procedure may also harm other organ systems of the body.
- **OTHER RISKS:** It is not possible to list all the possible risks and complications and the variations that may arise in any surgical operation or medical procedure. Each situation depends upon the purpose and nature of the operation or procedures. Your physician is willing to discuss further with you various details about other risks.

_____ I have received a copy of the medical/surgical risks form to review prior to surgery.

Patient Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness Signature: _____ Date: _____