Fistula in Ano

A. Interpreter / cultural needs

An Interpreter Service is required?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No
If Yes, is a qualified Interpreter present?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No
A Cultural Support Person is required?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No
If Yes, is a Cultural Support Person present?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

B. Condition and treatment

The doctor has explained that you have the following condition:  (Doctor to document in patient's own words)

This condition requires the following procedure.  (Doctor to document - include site and/or side where relevant to the procedure)

The following will be performed:

Removal of an abnormal track between the anus and skin.

C. Risks of repair of a fistula in ano

There are risks and complications with this procedure. They include but are not limited to the following.

General risks:

- Infection can occur, requiring antibiotics and further treatment.
- Bleeding could occur and may require a return to the operating room. Bleeding is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs such as Warfarin, Aspirin, Clopidogrel (Plavix or Iscover) or Dipyridamole (Persantin or Asasantin).
- Small areas of the lung can collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
- Increased risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications, and thrombosis.
- Heart attack or stroke could occur due to the strain on the heart.
- Blood clot in the leg (DVT) causing pain and swelling. In rare cases part of the clot may break off and go to the lungs.
- Death as a result of this procedure is possible.

Specific risks:

- There will be an open wound where the fistula was removed. This will take 2-3 weeks to heal.
- If the fistula involves an excessive amount of muscle around the anus, the doctor may insert a small plastic marker to assist in drainage until further surgery is possible.
- The condition may recur, and an abscess about the anal region may occur.

- Scarring may develop about the anus, and it may be painful or thickened.
- Rarely the muscles at the anus may be overstretched or over cut with a resultant weakness in the area. This could cause problems with control of the bowels (incontinence).
- A pad may need to be worn and/or further surgery may be needed.
- Increased risk in smokers of wound and chest infections, heart and lung complications and thrombosis.

D. Significant risks and procedure options

(Doctor to document in space provided. Continue in Medical Record if necessary.)

E. Risks of not having this procedure

(Doctor to document in space provided. Continue in Medical Record if necessary.)

F. Anaesthetist

This procedure may require an anaesthetic.  (Doctor to document type of anaesthetic discussed)

G. Patient consent

I acknowledge that the doctor has explained:

- my medical condition and the proposed procedure, including additional treatment if the doctor finds something unexpected. I understand the risks, including the risks that are specific to me.
- the anaesthetic required for this procedure. I understand the risks, including the risks that are specific to me.
- other relevant procedure/treatment options and their associated risks.
- my prognosis and the risks of not having the procedure.
that no guarantee has been made that the procedure will 
 improve my condition even though it has been carried out 
 with due professional care.

the procedure may include a blood transfusion.

- tissues and blood may be removed and could be used for 
  diagnosis or management of my condition, stored and 
  disposed of sensitively by the hospital.

- if immediate life-threatening events happen during the 
  procedure, they will be treated based on my discussions 
  with the doctor or my Acute Resuscitation Plan.

a doctor other than the consultant/specialist may 
conduct/assist with the clinically appropriate 
procedure/treatment/investigation/examination. I 
understand this could be a doctor undergoing further 
training. I understand that all surgical trainees are 
supervised according to relevant professional guidelines.

I was able to ask questions and raise concerns with the doctor 
about my condition, the proposed procedure and its risks, and 
my treatment options. My questions and concerns have been 
discussed and answered to my satisfaction.

I understand I have the right to change my mind at any time, 
including after I have signed this form but, preferably following 
a discussion with my doctor.

I understand that image/s or video footage may be recorded 
as part of and during my procedure and that these image/s or 
video/s will assist the doctor to provide appropriate treatment.

Student examination/procedure for educational purposes
For the purpose of undertaking professional training, a 
student/s may observe the medical examination/s or 
procedure/s and may also, subject to patient consent, perform 
an examination/s or assist in performing the procedure/s on a 
patient while the patient is under anaesthetic. This is for 
education purposes only. A student/s who undertakes an 
examination/s or assists in performing the procedure/s will be 
under the supervision of the treating doctor, in accordance 
with the relevant professional guidelines.

For the purposes of education I consent to a student/s 
undergoing training to:

- observe examination/s or procedure/s
- assist and/or perform examination/s or procedure/s

Student - this may include medical, nursing, midwifery, allied
health or ambulance students.

I have been given the following Patient Information 
Sheet/s:

- Anaesthetic: Nerve Block OR
- Epidural & Spinal Anaesthetic
- Fistula in Ano

On the basis of the above statements,

I request to have the procedure

Name of Patient: ________________________________

Signature: ________________________________

Date: ________________________________

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Patients who lack capacity to provide consent
Consent must be obtained from a substitute decision 
maker/s in the order below.

Does the patient have an Advance Health Directive 
(AHD)?

☐ Yes  Location of the original or certified copy of the AHD:

☐ No

- Name of Substitute 
  Decision Maker/s:

- Signature:

- Relationship to patient:

- Date: ________________ PH No: ________________

Source of decision making authority (tick one):

☐ Tribunal-appointed Guardian
☐ Attorney/s for health matters under Enduring Power 
of Attorney or AHD
☐ Statutory Health Attorney
☐ If none of these, the Adult Guardian has provided 
  consent. Ph 1300 QLD OAG (753 624)

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H. Doctor / delegate statement
I have explained to the patient all the above points under 
the Patient Consent section (G) and I am of the opinion 
that the patient/substitute decision-maker has understood 
the information.

Name of Doctor/delegate: ________________________________________

Designation: ________________________________________

Signature: ________________________________________

Date: ________________________________________

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I. Interpreter's statement
I have given a sight translation in ________________________________

(state the patient's language here) of the consent form 
and assisted in the provision of any verbal and written 
information given to the patient/parent or 
guardian/substitute decision-maker by the doctor.

Name of Interpreter: ________________________________________

Signature: ________________________________________

Date: ________________________________________
1. What is a fistula in ano?
A fistula in ano is a hollow track lined with granulation tissue connecting a primary opening inside the anal canal to a secondary opening in the perianal skin. Surgical removal of the abnormal track between the anus and skin is needed.

2. My anaesthetic:
This procedure will require an anaesthetic. See Anaesthetic: Nerve Block OR Epidural and Spinal Anaesthetic information sheet for information about the anaesthetic and the risks involved. If you have any concerns, discuss these with your doctor.
If you have not been given an information sheet, please ask for one.

3. What are the risks of this specific procedure?
There are risks and complications with this procedure. They include but are not limited to the following.

General risks:
- Infection can occur, requiring antibiotics and further treatment.
- Bleeding could occur and may require a return to the operating room. Bleeding is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs such as Warfarin, Aspirin, Clopidogrel (Plavix or Iscover) or Dipyridamole (Persantin or Asasantin).
- Small areas of the lung can collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
- Increased risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications, and thrombosis.
- Heart attack or stroke could occur due to the strain on the heart.
- Blood clot in the leg (DVT) causing pain and swelling. In rare cases part of the clot may break off and go to the lungs.
- Death as a result of this procedure is possible.

Specific risks:
- There will be an open wound where the fistula was removed. This will take 2-3 weeks to heal.
- If the fistula involves an excessive amount of muscle around the anus, the doctor may insert a small plastic marker to assist in drainage until further surgery is possible.
- The condition may recur, and an abscess about the anal region may occur.
- Scarring may develop about the anus, and it may be painful or thickened.
- Rarely the muscles at the anus may be over stretched or over cut with a resultant weakness in the area. This could cause problems with control of the bowels (incontinence). A pad may need to be worn and/or further surgery may be needed.

- Increased risk in smokers of wound and chest infections, heart and lung complications and thrombosis.

4. Who will be performing the procedure?
A doctor other than the consultant/specialist may conduct/assist with the clinically appropriate procedure/treatment/investigation/examination.
I understand this could be a doctor undergoing further training, and that all trainees are supervised according to relevant professional guidelines.
If you have any concerns about which doctor/clinician will be performing the procedure, please discuss with the doctor/clinician.

For the purpose of undertaking professional training in this teaching hospital, a student/s may observe the medical examination/s or procedure/s.
Subject to your consent, a student/s may perform an examination/s or assist in performing the procedure/s while you are under anaesthetic. This is for education purposes only. A student/s who undertakes an examination/s or assists in performing the procedure/s will be under the supervision of the treating doctor, in accordance with relevant professional guidelines.
If you choose not to consent, it will not adversely affect your access, outcome or rights to medical treatment in any way. You are under no obligation to consent to an examination/s or a procedure/s being undertaken by a student/s for education purposes.

Notes to talk to my doctor about:

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