

Informed Consent - Laser Resurfacing procedures of skin

INSTRUCTIONS

This is an informed-consent document that has been prepared to help inform you about laser resurfacing procedures of skin, its risks, and alternative treatments. It is important that you read this information carefully and completely. Please sign the consent for surgery as proposed by your plastic surgeon.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Laser skin resurfacing is a comprehensive treatment designed to improve the appearance of your complexion through laser therapy, a powerful yet non-surgical means of skin rejuvenation. This technique is designed to penetrate the different layers of the skin with targeted laser energy in order to foster the production of new, healthy skin cells. Laser skin resurfacing can be highly effective at enhancing the tone and texture of your skin, but also treating wrinkles, sun damage, hyperpigmentation, loose skin, acne scars, and many other common skin concerns.

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS

Alternative forms of management consist of not treating your skin concerns with Laser skin resurfacing. Improvement of skin may be attempted by other treatments or surgery such as laser resurfacing, chemical face peels or liposuction. Risks and potential complications are also associated with alternative surgical forms of treatment.

RISKS OF LASER RESURFACING PROCEDURES OF SKIN

Infection- Although infection following laser skin resurfacing is unusual, bacterial, fungal, and viral infections can occur. **Herpes simplex virus** infections around the mouth can occur following a laser treatment.

Scarring- Although good wound healing after a procedure is expected, abnormal scars may occur within the skin and deeper tissues. In rare cases, keloid scars may result.

Burns- Although rare, laser energy can produce burns. Adjacent structures including the eyes may be injured or permanently damaged by the laser beam.

Color Change- Skin redness usually lasts 1-3 months and occasionally 6 months following laser skin resurfacing. There is the possibility of irregular color variations within the skin including areas that are both lighter and darker.

Accutane (Isotretinoin)- Accutane is a prescription medication used to treat certain skin diseases. This drug may impair the ability of skin to heal following treatments.

Bleeding- Bleeding is rare following laser skin resurfacing procedures.

Skin Discoloration / Swelling- Some swelling normally occurs following a laser skin resurfacing.

Damaged Skin- Skin that has been previously treated with chemical peels or dermabrasion, or damaged by burns, electrolysis (hair removal treatments), or radiation therapy may heal abnormally or slowly following treatment by lasers.

Pain- You may experience minimal to moderate pain after your surgery.

Allergic Reactions- In rare cases, local allergies to topical preparation agents or prescribed medications have been reported. Serious systemic reactions including shock (anaphylaxis) can occur.

Skin Sensitivity- Itching, tenderness, or exaggerated responses to hot or cold temperatures may occur after laser treatment. Usually this resolves during healing.

Unsatisfactory Result- Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee or warranty expressed or implied, on the results. It may be necessary to perform additional laser treatments to attempt to improve your results.

ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES

Long-Term Results- Laser resurfacing does not arrest the aging process or produce permanent tightening of the skin. Future surgery or other treatments may be necessary to maintain the results of laser resurfacing.

PATIENT COMPLIANCE Follow all physician instructions carefully. It is important that you participate in follow-up care.

HEALTH INSURANCE- Most health insurance companies exclude coverage for cosmetic surgical procedures such as Laser resurfacing procedures of skin or any complications that might occur from these procedures. Please carefully review your health insurance subscriber information pamphlet. Most insurance plans exclude coverage for secondary or revisionary surgery.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The cost of surgery involves several charges for the services provided. The total includes fees charged by your surgeon, the cost of surgical supplies, anesthesia, laboratory tests, and possible outpatient hospital charges, depending on where the procedure is performed. The fees charged for this procedure do not include any potential future costs for additional procedures that you elect to have or require in order to revise, optimize, or complete your outcome. Additional costs may occur should complications develop from the procedure. **In signing the consent for this surgery/procedure, you acknowledge that you have been informed about its risk and consequences and accept responsibility for the clinical decisions that were made along with the financial costs of all future treatments.**

DISCLAIMER

Informed-consent documents are used to communicate information about the proposed treatment along with disclosure of risks and alternative forms of treatment(s), including no surgery. The informed-consent process attempts to define principles of risk disclosure that should generally meet the needs of most patients in most circumstances.

However, informed-consent documents should not be considered all-inclusive in defining other methods of care and risks encountered. Your plastic surgeon may provide you with additional

or different information which is based on all the facts in your particular case and the current state of medical knowledge.

Informed-consent documents are not intended to define or serve as the standard of medical care. Standards of medical care are determined on the basis of all of the facts involved in an individual case and are subject to change as scientific knowledge and technology advance and as practice patterns evolve.

It is important that you read the above information carefully and have all of your questions answered before signing the consent.