

INFORMED CONSENT BLEPHAROPLASTY SURGERY

INSTRUCTIONS

This is an informed consent document that has been prepared to help your facial plastic surgeon inform you about Blepharoplasty surgery, its risks, and alternative treatment.

It is important that you read this information carefully and completely. Please initial each page, indicating that you have read the page and sign the consent for surgery as proposed by your facial plastic surgeon.

INTRODUCTION

Blepharoplasty is a surgical procedure to remove excess skin and muscle from both the upper and lower eyelids along with underlying fatty tissue. Blepharoplasty can improve drooping skin and bagginess. It can help improve vision in older patients who have hooding of their upper eyelids. Although it can add an upper eyelid crease to the Asian eyelid, it will not erase evidence of one's racial or ethnic heritage. Blepharoplasty will not remove "crows feet" or other wrinkles, eliminate dark circles under the eyes, or lift sagging eyebrows.

Blepharoplasty surgery is customized for every patient depending on his or her particular needs. It can be performed alone involving upper, lower or both eyelid regions, or in conjunction with other surgical procedures of the eye, face, brow, or nose. Eyelid surgery cannot stop the process of aging. It can however, diminish the look of loose skin and bagginess in the eyelid region.

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT

Alternative treatment of management include not treating the skin laxness and bagginess in the eyelids by surgery. Improvement of skin laxness, fatty deposits and skin wrinkles may be accomplished by other treatments or surgery such as a brow lift when indicated. Other forms of eyelid surgery may be needed should you have disorders affecting the function of the eyelid such as drooping eyelids from muscle problems (eyelid ptosis) or looseness between the eyelid and eyeball (ectropion). Minor skin wrinkling may be improved through chemical skin-peels or other skin treatments. Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative forms of treatment.

Bleeding – It is possible, though unusual, to have a bleeding episode during or after surgery. Bleeding may occur under the skin or internally around the eyeball. Should you develop post-operative bleeding, it may require emergency treatment or surgery. Do not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for ten days before surgery, as this may contribute to a greater risk of bleeding problem. Hypertension (high blood pressure) that is not under good medical control may cause bleeding during or after surgery. Accumulation of blood under the eyelids may delay healing and cause scarring

Blindness- Blindness is extremely rare after blepharoplasty. However, it can be caused by internal bleeding around the eye during or after surgery. The occurrence of this is not predictable.

Infection- Infection is quite unusual after surgery. Should an infection occur, additional treatment including antibiotics may be necessary.

Scarring- Although good wound healing after a surgical procedure is expected, abnormal scars may occur both within the eyelid or the deeper tissues. Scars may be unattractive and of a different color than surrounding skin. There is the possibility of visible marks in the eyelid or small skin cysts from open sutures. Additional treatments may be needed to treat scarring.

Damage to deeper structures- Deeper structures such as nerves, tear ducts, blood vessels and muscles may be damaged during the course of surgery. The potential for this to occur varies with the type of Blepharoplasty procedure performed. Injury to deeper structures may be temporary or permanent.

Dry eye problems – Permanent disorders involving decreased tear production can occur after Blepharoplasty. The occurrence of this is rare and not entirely predictable. Individuals who normally have dry eyes may be advised to use special caution in considering Blepharoplasty surgery.

Asymmetry – The human face and eyelid region is normally asymmetrical. There can be a variation from one side to the other in the results obtained from Blepharoplasty procedure.

Chronic pain- Chronic pain may occur very infrequently after Blepharoplasty

Skin disorders/skin cancers – A Blepharoplasty is a surgical procedure to tighten the loose skin and the deeper structures of the eyelid. Skin disorders and skin cancer may occur independently of eyelid surgery.

Ectropion - Displacement of the lower eyelid away from the eyeball is a rare complication. Further surgery may be required to correct this condition.

Unsatisfactory results – There is the possibility of an unsatisfactory result from the Blepharoplasty surgery. The surgery may result in unacceptable visible or tactile deformities, loss of function, wound disruption, and loss of sensation. You may be disappointed that the results of Blepharoplasty surgery do not meet your expectations. Additional surgery may be necessary should the result of Blepharoplasty be unsatisfactory.

Allergic reactions- In rare cases, local allergies to tape, suture material, or topical preparations have been reported, Systemic reactions which are more serious may occur to drugs used during surgery and prescription medicines. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.

Eyelash/hair loss- Hair loss may occur in the lower eyelash area where the skin was elevated during surgery. The occurrence of this is not predictable. Hair loss may be temporary or permanent.

Delayed healing- Wound disruption or delayed wound healing is possible.

Long Term Effects- Subsequent alterations in eyelid appearance may occur as the result of aging, sun exposure, or other circumstances not related to eyelid surgery. Blepharoplasty surgery does not arrest the

aging process or produce permanent tightening of the eyelid region. Future surgery or other treatments may be necessary to maintain the results of a blepharoplasty.

Surgical Anesthesia- Both local and general anesthesia involves risk. There is the possibility of complications, injury and even death from all forms of surgical anesthesia or sedation.

HEALTH INSURANCE:

Most health insurance companies exclude coverage of cosmetic surgical operations for many complications that might occur from cosmetic surgery. Please carefully review your health insurance subscriber information pamphlet.

ADDITIONAL SURGERY NECESSARY:

There are many variable conditions in addition to risk and potential surgical complications that may influence the long term result from Blepharoplasty surgery. Risks and complications occur infrequently. The risks cited are particularly associated with Blepharoplasty surgery. Other complications and risks can occur but are even more uncommon. Should complications occur, additional surgery or other treatments may be necessary. The practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science. Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee or warranty expressed or implied, as to the results that may be obtained. Infrequently, it is necessary to perform additional surgery to improve your results.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:

The cost of surgery involves several charges for the services provided. The total includes fees charged by your doctor the cost of surgical supplies, anesthesia, and hospital charges, depending where the surgery is performed. Depending on whether the cost of surgery is covered by an insurance plan, you will be responsible for necessary co-payments deductibles, and charges not covered. Additional costs may occur should complications develop from the surgery. Secondary surgery or hospital day surgery charges involved with revisionary surgery would also be your responsibility.

DISCLAIMER:

Informed consent documents are used to communicate information about the proposed surgical treatment of a disease or condition along with disclosure of risks and alternative forms of treatment(s). 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 facial plastic surgeon may provide you with additional or different information which is based on all the facts in your particular case and the 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 the facts involved in an individual case and are subject to change as scientific knowledge and technology advance and as practice patterns evolve