



Stuart Barton, M.D.
Robert N. Gebhart, M.D.
Quinten M. Vanderwerf, M.D.
Syed F. Ahsan, M.D.
Christopher Walz, M.D.

INFORMED CONSENT – RHINOPLASTY SURGERY

INTRODUCTION:

Surgery of nose (*Rhinoplasty*) is an operation frequently performed by facial plastic surgeons. This surgical procedure can produce changes in the appearance, structure and function of the nose. *Rhinoplasty* can reduce or increase the size of the nose, change the shape of the tip, narrow the width of the nostrils, or change the angle between the nose and the upper lip. This operation can help correct birth defects, nasal injuries, and help relieve some breathing problems.

There is not a universal type of *Rhinoplasty* surgery that will meet the needs of every patient. *Rhinoplasty* surgery is customized for each patient depending on his or her needs. Incisions may be made within the nose or concealed in inconspicuous locations of the nose in the open *Rhinoplasty* procedure. Internal nasal surgery to improve nasal breathing can be performed at the time of the *Rhinoplasty*.

The best candidates for this type of surgery are individuals who are looking for improvement, not perfection in the appearance of their nose. In addition to realistic expectations, good health and psychological stability are important qualities for a patient considering *Rhinoplasty* surgery. *Rhinoplasty* can be performed in conjunction with other surgeries.

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT:

Alternative forms of management consist of not undergoing the *Rhinoplasty* surgery. Certain internal nasal airway disorders may not require surgery on the exterior of the nose. Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative forms of treatment that correct nasal airway disorder and involve surgery such as Septoplasty.

RISKS OF RHINOPLASTY SURGERY:

With any type of activity there is inherent risk. An individual's choice to undergo a surgical procedure is based on the comparison of the risk to potential benefit. Although the majority of patients do not experience these complications, you should discuss each of them with your surgeon to make sure you understand the risks, potential complications and consequences of *Rhinoplasty*.

Bleeding – It is possible, though unusual, that you may have problems with bleeding during or after surgery. Should post-operative bleeding occur, it may require emergency treatment to stop the bleeding, or require a blood transfusion. Do not take any aspirin or aspirin products, anti-inflammatory, St John's Wart or Vitamin E 10 days before surgery as this contributes to a greater risk of bleeding. Hypertension (high blood pressure) that is not under good medical control may cause bleeding during or after surgery. Accumulations of blood under the skin may delay healing and cause scarring.

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

Initial: _____

Scarring- Although good wound healing after a surgical procedure is expected, abnormal scars may occur both within the skin and the deeper tissues. Scars may be unattractive and of different color than the surrounding skin. There is the possibility of visible marks from sutures. Additional treatments including surgery 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 *Rhinoplasty* procedure performed. Injury to deeper structures may be temporary or permanent.

Unsatisfactory results – There is the possibility of an unsatisfactory result from the *Rhinoplasty* surgery. The surgery may result in unacceptable visible or tactile deformities, loss of function, or structural mal position after *Rhinoplasty* surgery. You may be disappointed that the results of *Rhinoplasty* surgery do not meet your expectations. Additional surgery may be necessary should the result of *Rhinoplasty* be unsatisfactory.

Numbness- There is the potential for permanent numbness within the nasal skin after *Rhinoplasty*. The occurrence of this is not predictable. Diminished (or loss of skin sensation) in the nasal area may not totally resolve after *Rhinoplasty*.

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

Chronic pain- Chronic pain may occur very infrequently after *Rhinoplasty*.

Skin Disorders/skin cancer – *Rhinoplasty* is a surgical procedure to reshape of both internal and external structure of the nose. Skin disorders and skin cancer may occur independently of a *Rhinoplasty*.

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.

Delayed healing- Wound disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. Some areas of the face may not heal normally and may take a long time to heal. Areas of skin may die. This may require frequent dressing changes or further surgery to remove the non-healed tissue

Long Term Effects- Subsequent alterations in nasal appearance may occur as the result of aging, sun exposure, or other circumstances not related to *Rhinoplasty* surgery. Future surgery or other treatments may be necessary to maintain the results of a *Rhinoplasty* operation.

Nasal Septal Perforation- There is the possibility that surgery will cause a hole in the nasal septum to develop. The occurrence of this is rare. However, if it occurs, additional surgical treatment may be necessary to repair to hole in the nasal septum. In some cases, it may be impossible to correct this complication.

Nasal Airway alterations: Changes may occur after a *Rhinoplasty* or *Septoplasty* operation that may interfere with normal passage of air through the nose

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 for cosmetic surgical operations of many complications that might occur from cosmetic surgery. If the procedure corrects a breathing problem or marked deformity after a nasal fracture, a portion may be covered. Please carefully review your health insurance subscriber information pamphlet.

Initial: _____

Eisenhower Medical Center

Wright Professional Building • Suite 301 • 39000 Bob Hope Drive • Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 • Phone 760-340-4566 • FAX 760-340-2481 • www.desertent.com

ADDITIONAL SURGERY NECESSARY:

There are many variable conditions in addition to risk and potential surgical complications that may influence the long term result from Rhinoplasty surgery. Risk and complications occur infrequently. The risks cited are particularly associated with Rhinoplasty 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 revision 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

Date: _____

Signature: _____ Witness: _____