

## **INFORMED CONSENT – CHEMICAL SKIN PEELS and TREATMENTS**

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## INFORMED CONSENT – CHEMICAL SKIN PEELS and TREATMENTS

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

This is an informed-consent document that has been prepared to help inform you about chemical skin peel and skin treatment procedure(s), 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 plastic surgeon and agreed upon by you.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Chemical skin peels and other skin treatments have been performed for many years to treat a variety of skin disorders. Conditions such as sun damage, wrinkling, and uneven pigmentation may be treated with these non-invasive techniques. There are many different techniques and regimens for the application of chemical-peeling and skin treatment medications. In some situations, chemical peels may be performed at the time of other surgical procedures.

Chemical skin peels and other skin treatment procedures are not an alternative to skin tightening surgery when indicated.

### **ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS**

Alternative forms of management include not treating the skin with chemical-peeling agents or other medications. Improvement of skin lesions and skin wrinkles may be accomplished by other treatments such as dermabrasion, laser treatment, or surgery to tighten loose skin. Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative forms of treatment.

### **RISKS OF CHEMICAL SKIN PEELS / SKIN TREATMENTS**

Every procedure involves a certain amount of risk and it is important that you understand these risks and the possible complications associated with them. In addition, every procedure has limitations. An individual's choice to undergo a 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 plastic surgeon to make sure you understand all possible consequences of chemical skin-peeling and other forms of skin treatment.

**Infection:** Although infection following chemical skin peels is unusual, bacterial, fungal, and viral infections can occur. **Herpes simplex virus** infections around the mouth can occur /reoccur following a chemical peel. This applies to both individuals with a history of Herpes simplex virus infections and individuals with no known history of Herpes simplex virus infections in the mouth area. Specific medications must be prescribed and taken both prior to and following the procedure in order to suppress an infection from this virus. Should an infection occur, additional treatment including antibiotics, hospitalization, or additional surgery may be necessary. It is important to tell your surgeon of any other infections, such as ingrown toenail, insect bite, or urinary tract infection. Remote infections, infections in other parts of the body, may lead to an infection in the operated area.

**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. Scars may be unattractive and of different color than the surrounding skin tone. Scar appearance may also vary within the same scar. Scars may be asymmetrical (appear different on the right and left side of the body). There is the possibility of visible marks in the skin from sutures. In some cases scars may require surgical revision or treatment.

**Color Change:** Chemical-peeling agents can permanently lighten the natural color of your skin. There is the possibility of irregular color variations within the skin including areas that are both lighter and darker. Permanent darkening of skin has occurred after chemical peels. A line of demarcation between normal skin and skin treated with chemical peeling agent can occur. Redness after a chemical peel may persist for unacceptably long periods of time.

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**Accutane (Isotretinoin):** Accutane is a prescription medication used to treat certain skin diseases. If you have ever taken Accutane, you should discuss this with your surgeon. This drug may impair the ability of skin to heal following treatments or surgery for a variable amount of time even after the patient has ceased taking it. Individuals who have taken this drug are advised to allow their skin adequate time to recover from Accutane before undergoing skin treatment procedures.

**Allergic Reactions:** In rare cases, allergies have been reported to drugs and agents used for chemical-peeling or skin treatments, tape, suture materials and glues, blood products, topical preparations, and preservatives used in cosmetics. Serious systemic reactions including shock (anaphylaxis) may occur to drugs used during surgery and prescription medications. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.

**Lack of Permanent Results:** Chemical peel or other skin treatments may not completely improve or prevent future skin disorders, lesions, or wrinkles. No technique can reverse the signs of skin aging. Additional surgical procedures may be necessary to further tighten loose skin. You may be required to continue with a skin care maintenance program after a chemical-peel procedure.

**Heart Problems:** Chemical-peeling preparations containing phenol have been reported to produce abnormal heart beats that may require medical treatment should they occur during the procedure. This is a potentially serious problem.

**Skin Discoloration / Swelling:** Some swelling normally occurs following a chemical skin peel. The skin in or near the procedure site can appear either lighter or darker than surrounding skin. Although uncommon, swelling and skin discoloration may persist for long periods and, in rare situations, may be permanent.

**Skin Sensitivity:** Itching, tenderness, or exaggerated responses to hot or cold temperatures may occur. Usually this resolves during healing, but in rare situations it may be chronic.

**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 or other surgical techniques. The occurrence of this is not predictable. Additional treatment may be necessary. If you have ever had such treatments, you should inform your surgeon.

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

**Pain:** You will experience pain after your treatment. Pain of varying intensity and duration may occur and persist after surgery. Very infrequently, chronic pain may occur after chemical peel procedures.

**Unknown Risks:** There is the possibility that additional risk factors of chemical skin peels and skin treatments may be discovered.

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### ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES

#### **Smoking, Second-Hand Smoke Exposure, Nicotine Products (Patch, Gum, Nasal Spray):**

Patients who are currently smoking or use tobacco or nicotine products (patch, gum, or nasal spray) are at a greater risk for significant surgical complications of skin dying, delayed healing and additional scarring. Individuals exposed to second-hand smoke are also at potential risk for similar complications attributable to nicotine exposure. Additionally, smoking may have a significant negative effect on anesthesia and recovery from anesthesia, with coughing and possibly increased bleeding. Individuals who are not exposed to tobacco smoke or nicotine-containing products have a significantly lower risk of this type of complication. Please indicate your current status regarding these items below:

I am a non-smoker and do not use nicotine products. I understand the potential risk of second-hand smoke exposure causing surgical complications.

I am a smoker or use tobacco / nicotine products. I understand the risk of surgical complications due to smoking or use of nicotine products.

I have smoked and stopped approximately \_\_\_\_\_ ago. I understand I may still have the effects and therefore risks from smoking in my system, if not enough time has lapsed.

It is important to refrain from smoking at least 6 weeks before surgery and until your physician states it is safe to return, if desired. I acknowledge that I will inform my physician if I continue to smoke within this time frame, and understand that for my safety, the surgery, if possible, may be delayed.

#### **Off-Label FDA Issues:**

There are many devices, medications and injectable fillers and botulinum toxins that are approved for specific use by the FDA, but this proposed use is “Off-Label”, that is not specifically approved by the FDA. It is important that you understand this proposed use is not experimental and your physician believe it to be safe and effective. Examples of commonly accepted “Off-Label” use of drugs or devices include the use of aspirin for prevention of heart disease, retinoids for skin care, and injection of botulinum toxin for wrinkles around the eyes.

I acknowledge that I have been informed about the Off-Label FDA status of \_\_\_\_\_, and I understand it is not experimental and accept its use.

**Medications and Herbal Dietary Supplements:** There are potential adverse reactions that occur as the result of taking over-the-counter, herbal, and/or prescription medications. Aspirin and medications that contain aspirin interfere with clotting and can cause more bleeding. These include non-steroidal anti-inflammatories such as Motrin, Advil, and Alleve. It is very important not to stop drugs that interfere with platelets, such as Plavix, which is used after a stent. It is important if you have had a stent and are taking Plavix that you inform the plastic surgeon. Stopping Plavix may result in a heart attack, stroke and even death. Be sure to check with your physician about any drug interactions that may exist with medications which you are already taking. If you have an adverse reaction, stop the drugs immediately and call your plastic surgeon for further instructions. If the reaction is severe, go immediately to the nearest emergency room. When taking the prescribed pain medications after surgery, realize that they can affect your thought process and coordination. Do not drive, do not operate complex equipment, do not make any important decisions and do not drink any alcohol while taking these medications. Be sure to take your prescribed medication only as directed.

**Sun Exposure – Direct or Tanning Salon:** The effects of the sun are damaging to the skin. Exposing the treated areas to sun may result in increased scarring, color changes, and poor healing. Patients who tan, either outdoors or in a salon, should inform their surgeon and either delay treatment, or avoid tanning until the surgeon says it is safe to resume. The damaging effect of sun exposure occurs even with the use sun block or clothing coverage.

**Travel Plans:** Any surgery holds the risk of complications that may delay healing and delay your return to normal life. Please let the surgeon know of any travel plans, important commitments already scheduled or planned, or time demands that are important to you, so that appropriate timing of surgery can occur. There are no guarantees that you will be able to resume all activities in the desired time frame.

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**Long-Term Results:** Subsequent alterations in appearance may occur as the result of aging, weight loss or gain, sun exposure, pregnancy, menopause, or other circumstances not related to skin treatments. Skin peels do not arrest the aging process or produce permanent tightening of the skin. Future surgery or other treatments may be necessary to maintain your results.

**Skin Lesion Recurrence:** Skin lesions can recur after a chemical peel or skin treatments. Additional treatment or secondary surgery may be necessary.

**Skin Cancer / Skin Disorders:** Skin peels and skin treatment procedures do not offer protection against developing skin cancer or skin disorders in the future.

**Body-Piercing Procedures:** Individuals who currently wear body-piercing jewelry in the treated region are advised that an infection could develop from this activity.

**Female Patient Information:** It is important to inform your plastic surgeon if you use birth control pills, estrogen replacement, or if you suspect you may be pregnant. Many medications including antibiotics may neutralize the preventive effect of birth control pills, allowing for conception and pregnancy.

**Intimate Relations After Surgery:** Surgery involves coagulating of blood vessels and increased activity of any kind may open these vessels leading to a bleed, or hematoma. Activity that increases your pulse or heart rate may cause additional bruising, swelling, and the need for return to surgery and control bleeding. It is wise to refrain from intimate physical activities until your physician states it is safe.

**Mental Health Disorders and Elective Surgery:** It is important that all patients seeking to undergo elective surgery have realistic expectations that focus on improvement rather than perfection. Complications or less than satisfactory results are sometimes unavoidable, may require additional surgery and often are stressful. Please openly discuss with your surgeon, prior to surgery, any history that you may have of significant emotional depression or mental health disorders. Although many individuals may benefit psychologically from the results of elective surgery, effects on mental health cannot be accurately predicted.

### **ADDITIONAL TREATMENT OR SURGERY NECESSARY**

There are many variable conditions which influence the long term result of chemical skin-peeling and other skin treatments. Even though risks and complications occur infrequently, the risks cited are the ones that are particularly associated with these procedures. 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, on the results that may be obtained.

### **PATIENT COMPLIANCE**

Follow all physician instructions carefully; this is essential for the success of your outcome. Postoperative instructions concerning appropriate restriction of activity, use of dressings, and use of sun protection must be followed in order to avoid potential complications, increased pain, and unsatisfactory result. Your physician may recommend that you utilize a long-term skin care program to enhance healing following a chemical skin peel. Successful post-operative function depends on both treatment and subsequent care. Physical activity that increases your pulse or heart rate may cause bruising, swelling, fluid accumulation and the need for return to surgery. It is wise to refrain from intimate physical activities after surgery until your physician states it is safe. It is important that you participate in follow-up care, return for aftercare, and promote your recovery after surgery.

## **INFORMED CONSENT – CHEMICAL SKIN PEELS and TREATMENTS**

### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

Most health insurance companies exclude coverage for cosmetic surgical procedures such as chemical peels or skin treatments or any complications that might occur from the procedure. Please carefully review your health insurance subscriber-information pamphlet or contact your insurance company for a detailed explanation of their policies. **Most insurance plans exclude coverage for secondary or revisionary surgery.**

### **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The cost of your procedure 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 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. 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 surgery. Secondary surgery or hospital day-surgery charges involved with revision surgery will also be your responsibility. **In signing the consent for this surgery/procedure, you acknowledge that you have been informed about its risks and consequences and accept responsibility for the clinical decisions that were made along with the financial costs of all future treatments.**

\_\_\_ I understand and unconditionally and irrevocably accept this.

### **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), 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 on the next page.**

**INFORMED CONSENT – CHEMICAL SKIN PEELS and TREATMENTS**  
**CONSENT FOR SURGERY / PROCEDURE or TREATMENT**

1. I hereby authorize Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ and such assistants as may be selected to perform the following procedure or treatment: **CHEMICAL SKIN PEELS and TREATMENTS**

I have received the following information sheet:

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2. I recognize that during the course of the procedure and medical treatment or anesthesia, unforeseen conditions may necessitate different procedures than those above. I therefore authorize the above physician and assistants or designees to perform such other procedures that are in the exercise of his or her professional judgment necessary and desirable. The authority granted under this paragraph shall include all conditions that require treatment and are not known to my physician at the time the procedure is begun.
3. I consent to the administration of such anesthetics considered necessary or advisable. I understand that all forms of anesthesia involve risk and the possibility of complications, injury, and sometimes death.
4. I understand what my surgeon can and cannot do, and I understand there are no warranties or guarantees, implied or specific about my outcome. I have had the opportunity to explain my goals and understand which desired outcomes are realistic and which are not. All of my questions have been answered, and I understand the inherent (specific) risks of the procedures I seek, as well as those additional risks and complications, benefits, and alternatives. Understanding all of this, I elect to proceed.
5. I consent to be photographed or televised before, during, and after the operation(s) or procedure(s) to be performed, including appropriate portions of my body, for medical, scientific or educational purposes, provided my identity is not revealed by the pictures.
6. For purposes of advancing medical education, I consent to the admittance of observers to the operating room.
7. I authorize the release of my Social Security number to appropriate agencies for legal reporting and medical-device registration, if applicable.
8. I understand that the surgeon's fees are separate from the anesthesia and hospital charges, and the fees are agreeable to me. If a secondary procedure is necessary, further expenditure will be required.
9. I realize that not having the procedure is an option.
10. IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO ME IN A WAY THAT I UNDERSTAND:
  - a. THE ABOVE TREATMENT OR PROCEDURE TO BE UNDERTAKEN
  - b. THERE MAY BE ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES OR METHODS OF TREATMENT
  - c. THERE ARE RISKS TO THE PROCEDURE OR TREATMENT PROPOSED

I CONSENT TO THE TREATMENT OR PROCEDURE AND THE ABOVE LISTED ITEMS (1-12).  
I AM SATISFIED WITH THE EXPLANATION.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient or Person Authorized to Sign for Patient

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Witness \_\_\_\_\_