

Fairfield County Plastic Surgery

INFORMED CONSENT FOR LASER RESURFACING AND REJUVENATION

This form is designed to give you the information you will need to make an informed choice on whether or not to undergo laser rejuvenation and resurfacing. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Although laser surgery is effective in most cases, no guarantee can be made that a specific patient will benefit from the treatment.

The CO2 laser has been used for treatment of various skin conditions for over 25 years. It emits an intense beam of light that heats and vaporizes skin instantaneously. It is done so precisely that normal surrounding tissue is hardly affected. This laser is used to treat wrinkling or rhytides around the mouth, eyes and other places on the face. It has also been used to remove age and liver spots, freckles, keratoses, skin cancers and other growths and conditions.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS AND POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS OF LASER RESURFACING AND REJUVENATION?

The most common side effects and complications of laser resurfacing and rejuvenation are:

1. Patients may feel some discomfort when the local anesthetic is injected. The pain is usually mild but some individuals, may experience significant discomfort. After the procedure is done, some discomfort may be felt for 24-48 hours.
2. Healing Wound. Laser resurfacing rejuvenation causes a superficial to deep wound to the skin which takes time to heal. The initial healing phase of the outer layer of skin results in swelling, weeping and crusting of the treated area which usually takes 5-14 days to heal. Once the surface is healed, it is pink for approximately 1-3 months and may be sensitive to the sun. As soon as the initial healing has taken place, the pink skin may be covered with make-up.
3. Pigment Changes, The treated area may heal with increased pigmentation (hyperpigmentation). This occurs most often in darker pigmented skin following exposure of the area to the sun. Some patients may have a predisposition to this type of reaction and may have noticed it with minor cuts, abrasions or acne lesions. It is thought that protecting treated areas from exposure to the sun for 3 months following the treatment minimizes the risk of hyperpigmentation. In some patients hyperpigmentation occurs even though the area has been protected from the sun. Hyperpigmentation spots usually fade away in 3-6 months and certain medication can be given to speed this process. Sometimes the hyperpigmentation changes can be permanent. In other patients, treated areas may occasionally lose pigmentation (hypopigmentation) and become lighter color than the surrounding skin. When this occurs, the area usually will not tan normally. This type of reaction is common with laser resurfacing and might be permanent. Irregular pigmentation changes may be treated by further laser resurfacing.
4. Excessive Swelling. Immediately after laser surgery, there may be swelling of the skin especially when the cheek and nose have been treated. This is a temporary condition and

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will not be harmful in itself but may be disturbing. The swelling usually subsides in 3-7 days.

5. Scarring. There is a very small risk of scarring including hypertrophic scars which are thickened scars and very rarely keloidal scars which are abnormal, have raised scar formations which may extend beyond the limits of the original scar. Scarring is a rare occurrence but it is a possibility because of disruption of the skins surface. To minimize the chance of scarring, it is important that you follow all post-operative instructions carefully.

6. Eye Exposure. There is also a risk of harmful eye exposure to laser surgery. Safeguards will be provided including the use of safety eyewear and patches during the laser treatment.

7. Sun Exposure. The patient understands that they have advised that sun exposure and excess heat must be avoided at all cost for a period of six months. To do so, would encourage skin pigment changes requiring further treatment.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS AND OTHER TREATMENTS IF I DON'T HAVE LASER SURGERY?

Many of the cosmetic conditions that are treated by laser resurfacing rejuvenation may be treated with other modalities. The modalities include deep chemical peels and dermabrasion. It is important to note that wrinkles, freckles, and other age spots are cosmetic in nature and pose no medical threat if they are not treated. This treatment; therefore, is a cosmetic elective procedure and only should be done with these considerations in mind.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONSENT

1.I acknowledge that no guarantee has been given to me as to the condition of the complexion, skin pore size, wrinkles or the amount of percentage of improvement expected following treatment.

2.I acknowledge that more than one resurfacing procedure may be required in certain areas to achieve the desired benefit.

3.I understand and know that the practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science and therefore reputable practitioners cannot properly guarantee results. I acknowledge that no guarantee or assurance has been made by any one regarding the operation which I have herein requested and authorized.

4.I hereby authorize the taking of photographs and/or videotape by Dr. Laurence Kirwan or Dr. Rick Rosen and his representative with the full understanding that such photographs and/or videotapes may be used for publication, for educational or research purposes.

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CONSENT

By signing below I acknowledge that I have read the foregoing informed consent regarding laser rejuvenation and resurfacing and I feel that the doctor has adequately informed me regarding the risks of laser surgery, alternative methods of treatment, and the risks of not treating my condition. I hereby give consent to laser resurfacing and rejuvenation to be performed by Dr. Laurence Kirwan or Dr. Rick Rosen.

Date _____

Patient's Signature: _____

Patient's representative (if patient is a minor)

Signature of parent or guardian required) _____

RELATIONSHIP TO PATIENT _____