

Fairfield County Plastic Surgery

INFORMED CONSENT-NASAL INJURY REPAIR SURGERY

INSTRUCTIONS

This is an informed consent document that has been prepared to help inform you concerning nasal injury repair 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 plastic surgeon.

INTRODUCTION

Injury to the nasal region of the face can produce damage to both the skin and the deeper nasal structures. Nasal bones and the nasal septum (the wall-like structure in between the nostrils) can be fractured or disrupted. Depending on the extent of injury, other structures within the face may require treatment as well. Some nasal injuries may be very minor and not require operative treatment. Surgical treatment of nasal injuries is performed to repair soft tissues or damaged structures such as broken nasal bones, or displaced nasal septum. Nasal injury repair surgery is intended to minimize potential deformities due to abnormal healing of displaced nasal structures.

Nasal injury repair surgery is most frequently performed using a closed technique in which skin incisions are not necessary. Nasal bones may be elevated and the nasal septum straightened. If the nasal injury is more severe, incisions and more involved surgical techniques may be needed. Surgery is usually performed under general anesthesia.

Timing of nasal injury repair surgery is critical as nasal bone fractures tend to heal quickly.

Nasal injuries may create both visible, tactile and functional deformities involving the nose. Future reconstructive surgery may be necessary to treat residual nasal region deformities and functional problems of decreased nasal airway function.

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT

Alternative forms of treatment consist of not undergoing the nasal injury repair surgery. Risks and potential complications such as the possibility of visible and palpable malformations and nasal airway breathing problems are associated with non-treatment of nasal injuries.

RISKS of NASAL INJURY REPAIR SURGERY

Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk and it is important that you understand the risks involved with nasal injury repair surgery. 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 the following complications, you should discuss each of them with your plastic surgeon to make sure you understand all possible consequences of nasal injury repair surgery.

Nasal airway alterations- Changes that occur as a result of nasal injury that may interfere with normal passage of air through the nose. Additional surgery may be necessary to correct this problem.

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 remove accumulated blood (hematoma). Do not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for three weeks 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.

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.

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There is the possibility of visible marks from sutures. Additional treatments including surgery may be needed to treat scarring.

Unsatisfactory result- There is the possibility of an unsatisfactory result from the nasal injury repair surgery. The surgery may result in unacceptable visible or tactile deformities, loss of function, or structural malposition. You may be disappointed that the results of nasal injury repair surgery do not meet your expectations. Future surgery may be necessary should the result of nasal injury repair surgery be unsatisfactory. Partial healing of damaged structures prior to nasal injury repair surgery may interfere with the optimal result from surgery.

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 procedure performed. Injury to deeper structures may be temporary or permanent.

Asymmetry- The human face is normally asymmetrical. There can be a variation from one side to the other in the results obtained from a nasal injury repair procedure.

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

Chronic pain- Very infrequently, chronic pain may occur after nasal injury.

Hardware and deeper sutures- Some surgical techniques use small screws, metal plates, or wire sutures to help stabilize damaged nasal structures. These items may be noticed by the patient following surgery. It may be necessary to remove these at a later time.

Patient compliance- Patient compliance with post-operative activity restriction is critical. Personal and vocational activities that involve the potential for re-injury to the nasal region must be avoided until healing is completed.

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

Delayed healing- Fracture disruption or delayed healing is possible. Some areas of the nose may heal abnormally or slowly. Areas of skin may die and may require frequent dressing changes or further surgery.

Long-term effects- Subsequent alterations in nasal appearance may occur as the result of aging, sun exposure, or other circumstances not related to nasal injury repair surgery. Future surgery or other treatments may be necessary.

Nasal septal perforation- Infrequently, a hole in the nasal septum will develop. The occurrence of this is rare. Additional surgical treatment may be necessary to repair the nasal septum. In some cases, it may be impossible to correct this complication.

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 or sedation.

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HEALTH INSURANCE

Most health insurance companies cover surgical operations to treat acute nasal injuries. Coverage for future reconstructive procedures following nasal injuries can vary, depending on your health care insurance company's policies. Please carefully review your health insurance subscriber-information pamphlet.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

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, 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. 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.

ADDITIONAL SURGERY NECESSARY

There are many variable conditions in addition to risk and potential surgical complications that may influence the long term result from nasal injury repair surgery. Even though risks and complications occur infrequently. The risks cited are particularly associated with nasal injury repair 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. It may be necessary to perform additional surgery to improve your results following nasal injury.

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 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 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.

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INFORMED CONSENT-NASAL INJURY REPAIR SURGERY

- 1. I hereby authorize Laurence Kirwan M.D. or Rick Rosen M.D. and such assistants as may be selected to perform the following procedure or treatment: I have received the following information sheet:
INFORMED CONSENT FOR NASAL REPAIR SURGERY
2. I recognize that during the course of the operation and medical treatment or anesthesia, unforeseen conditions may necessitate different procedures than those above.
3. I consent to the administration of such anesthetics considered necessary or advisable.
4. I acknowledge that no guarantee has been given by anyone as to the results that may be obtained.
5. I consent to the photographing or televising of 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 pictures.
6. For purposes of advancing medical education, I consent to the admittance of observers to the operating room.
7. I consent to the disposal of any tissue, medical devices or body parts which may be removed.
8. I authorize the release of my Social Security number to appropriate agencies for legal reporting and medical-device registration, if applicable.
9. It has been explained to me in a way that I understand:
The above treatment or procedure to be undertaken
There may be alternative procedures or methods of treatment
There are risks to the procedure or treatment proposed

I CONSENT TO THE TREATMENT OR PROCEDURE AND THE ABOVE LISTED ITEMS (1-9). I AM SATISFIED WITH THE EXPLANATION.

Patient or Person Authorized to sign for Patient Date

Witness

NOTHING BY MOUTH AFTER MIDNIGHT-RELEASE FROM RESPONSIBILITY AND PEER REVIEW

Date: Time:

(name of patient or myself) has not had anything to eat or drink, including water, since midnight, in preparation for surgery today. (Pre-operative medications can be taken with a sip of water). I authorize Dr. Kirwan or Dr. Rosen to disclose complete information concerning his medical findings and treatment of the undersigned, from the initial office visit until date of conclusion of such treatment, to those individuals who in Dr. Kirwan's or Dr. Rosen's sole determination, are required to receive such information for the purposes of medical treatment, medical quality assurance and peer review.

Patient's Signature

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_____ (Name of Patient, Parent or Guardian)

_____ (Witness)