



THE PLASTIC SURGERY CENTRE

## Informed Consent – Blepharoplasty

This is an informed-consent document that has been prepared to help Dr. Waslen inform you about blepharoplasty surgery, its risks and alternative treatments.

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 droopy skin and bagginess. It can improve vision in patients who have “hooding” of their upper eyelids. Although blepharoplasty surgery 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 “crow’s 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 aging process. It can, however, diminish the look of loose skin and bagginess in the eyelid region.

It is important that you read this information carefully and completely.

### **Risks of Blepharoplasty**

Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk. It is important that you understand the risks involved with this procedure. An individual’s choice to undergo a surgical procedure is based on the comparison of risk to potential benefit. Although the majority of patients do not experience these complications, you should understand the potential complications.

**Bleeding** – It is possible, though unusual, that you may have problems with bleeding during or after surgery. Should post-operative bleeding occur, it might require emergency treatment to drain accumulated blood or a blood transfusion. Do not take aspirin, anti-inflammatory medications or vitamin E for 2 weeks prior to surgery. These products increase your risk of bleeding during and after surgery. Individuals with high blood pressure that is not well controlled may increase the chances of excess bleeding during and after surgery. Accumulation of blood under the skin may delay healing and cause scarring.

**Infection** – Infection is unusual following this type of surgery. Should an infection occur, additional treatment, including antibiotics or surgery might be necessary.

**Blindness** – Blindness is extremely rare following blepharoplasty. However, internal bleeding around the eye during or after surgery can cause blindness. The occurrence of this is not predictable.

**Changes in sensation** – Eyelids are usually sore and swollen following surgery. Some changes in sensation in the operative area are not unusual after surgery. After several months, sensation should return to normal.

**Scarring** – Although good wound healing after a surgical procedure is expected, abnormal scars might occur within the skin and deeper tissues. Scars may be unattractive and of a different color than the surrounding skin. Additional treatments may be needed to treat scarring.

**Damage to deeper structures** – Deeper structures such as blood vessels, nerves, and muscles may be damaged during the course of surgery. Injury to deeper structures may be temporary or permanent.

**Dry eye problems** – Permanent disorders involving decreased tear production can occur following blepharoplasty surgery. 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 are normally asymmetrical. There can be a variation from one side to the other in the results obtained from Blepharoplasty surgery.

**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.

**Chronic pain** – Chronic pain is a very rare complication following blepharoplasty.

**Skin disorders/skin cancer** – Blepharoplasty is a surgical procedure to tighten the loose skin and 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.

**Numbness** – There is the potential for permanent numbness in the operative area. The occurrence of this is not predictable.

**Unsatisfactory result** – There is the possibility of a poor result from blepharoplasty. This would include risks such as unacceptable visible deformities, wound disruption and loss of sensation. You may be disappointed with the results of surgery. Infrequently, it is necessary to perform additional surgery to improve your results.

**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 after surgery. 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.

**Long term effects** – Subsequent alterations in eyelid appearance may occur as a result of aging, weight loss, 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.

**Delayed healing** – Wound disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. The operative areas may not heal normally or may take a long time to heal. Areas of skin may die. Frequent dressing changes or further surgery may be required to remove the non-healed tissue.

**Smokers have a greater risk of skin loss and wound healing complications.**

## Additional Surgery

Should complications occur, additional surgery or other treatments might be necessary. Even though 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. 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.

## Health Insurance

Most health insurance companies exclude coverage for cosmetic surgical operations such as blepharoplasty or any complications that might occur from surgery. Please carefully review your health insurance 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.