



THE PLASTIC SURGERY CENTRE

Informed Consent – Breast Reduction Mammoplasty

Instructions

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

It is important that you read the following information carefully and completely.

Introduction

Breast reduction is a surgical procedure performed to reduce breast size and reshape the contour of large breasts for a number of reasons:

- To enhance the body contour of a woman who, for personal reasons, feels that her breast size is too large.
- To ease physical discomfort, such as difficulty in breathing, backache, and irritation to the crease of the breasts.
- To balance breast size, when there exists a significant difference between the size of the breasts.

The shape and size of the breasts prior to surgery will influence both the recommended treatment and the final results. If the breasts are not the same size or shape before surgery, it is unlikely that they will be completely symmetrical following surgery.

The best candidates for breast reduction surgery are women with disproportionately large, sagging breasts. Breast reduction is not recommended for women who wish to breast-feed. It is difficult to predict the ability to breast-feed following breast reduction surgery since the ducts leading to and from the nipple may have to be severed to achieve the reduction.

Risks of Breast Reduction Surgery

Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk and it is important that you understand the risks involved with this surgery. An individual's choice to undergo a surgical procedure is based on the comparison of the risks to potential benefit. Although the majority of patients do not experience the following complications, you should discuss each of them with Dr. Waslen to make certain you understand all possible consequences of a breast reduction.

Bleeding – It is possible, though unlikely, that a bleeding episode may occur 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 any aspirin, anti-inflammatory medications or Vitamin E capsules for 2 weeks prior to surgery as this may increase the risk of bleeding.

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

Changes in Nipple and/or Skin Sensation – Breasts are normally sore following surgery. Some change in nipple sensation is not unusual right after surgery. After several months, nipple sensation should return to normal. Partial or permanent loss of nipple and/or skin sensation may occur occasionally.

Scarring – Excessive scarring is uncommon. In rare cases, abnormal scars may result. Scars may be unattractive and of a different color than the surrounding skin. Additional treatments including surgery may be necessary to treat abnormal scarring.

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

Delayed Healing –Wound disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. Some of the operative areas may heal abnormally. Some areas of the skin may die. This may require frequent dressing changes and/or further surgery to remove the unhealed tissue.

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

Allergic Reactions – In rare cases, local allergies to tape, suture material to topical preparations have been reported. Systemic reactions, which are more serious, may occur to drugs, used during and after surgery, and prescription medications. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.

Pulmonary Complications – Pulmonary complications may occur secondary to both blood clots (pulmonary emboli) or partial collapse of the lungs after general anesthesia. Should either of these complications occur, you might require hospitalization and additional treatment. Pulmonary emboli can be life threatening or fatal in some cases.

Long-Term Effects – Subsequent alterations in breast size may occur as a result of aging, weight loss or gain, pregnancy or other circumstances unrelated to breast augmentation.

Seroma – Fluid accumulations infrequently occur between the skin and the muscular wall of the operative area. Should this problem occur, it might require additional procedures for drainage of fluid.

Pain – Chronic pain may occur very infrequently due to nerves becoming trapped in scar tissue following surgery.

Other – You may be disappointed with the results of surgery. Asymmetry in breast shape and size may occur following surgery. Infrequently, it is necessary to perform additional surgery to improve your results.

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 breast reduction 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 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.