



THE PLASTIC SURGERY CENTRE

Informed Consent – Facelift/Neck Lift

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

Face/neck lift or rhytidectomy is a surgical procedure to improve visible signs of aging on the face and neck. As individual's age, the skin and muscles of the face region begin to lose tone. A facelift cannot stop the aging process. It can improve the most visible signs of aging by tightening deeper structures, re-draping the skin of the face and the neck, and removing selected areas of fat. A facelift can be performed alone or in conjunction with other procedures.

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

Risks of Face and Neck lift surgery

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.

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.

Asymmetry – The human face is normally asymmetrical. There can be a variation from one side to the other in the results obtained from Face and Neck lift 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.

Nerve Injury – Motor and sensory nerves may be injured during a facelift. Weakness or loss of facial movements may occur following a facelift. Nerve injuries may cause temporary or permanent loss of facial movements and feeling. Such injuries may improve over time. Injury to sensory nerves of the face, neck and ear regions may cause temporary or permanent numbness. Painful nerve scarring is very rare.

Chronic Pain – Chronic pain is a very rare complication following face and neck lift.

Skin Disorders/Skin Cancer – A face and neck lift is a surgical procedure to tighten the skin and deeper structures of the face and neck. Skin disorders and skin cancer may occur independently of face and neck lift surgery.

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 a face and neck lift. 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.

Hair Loss – Hair loss may occur in areas of the scalp where the skin was elevated during surgery. The occurrence of this is not predictable.

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.
This includes second hand smoke.**

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 face and neck lift 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 face and neck lift 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 any revision surgery would also be your responsibility.