



THE PLASTIC SURGERY CENTRE

Informed Consent – Rhinoplasty

Surgery of the nose (rhinoplasty) is an operation frequently performed by plastic surgeons. This surgical procedure can produce changes in the appearance, structure and function of the nose. Rhinoplasty can reduce or increase the size of the nose, change the shape of the tip, narrow the width of the nostrils, or change the angle between the nose and the upper lip. The operation can help correct birth defects, nasal injuries and help relive select breathing problems.

There is no universal type of rhinoplasty surgery that will meet the needs of every patient. Rhinoplasty surgery is customized for each patient, depending on his or her needs. Incisions may be made within the nose or concealed in inconspicuous locations of the nose in the open rhinoplasty procedure. Internal nasal surgery to improve nasal breathing can be performed in conjunction with rhinoplasty surgery.

The best candidates for this type of surgery are individuals who are looking for improvement, not perfection, in the appearance of their nose. In addition to realistic expectations, good health and psychological stability are important qualities for a patient considering rhinoplasty surgery. Rhinoplasty can be performed in conjunction with other surgeries.

Risks of Rhinoplasty

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 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 have an increased risk 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, muscles and tear ducts 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 rhinoplasty.

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 rhinoplasty.

Numbness – There is the potential for permanent numbness within the nasal skin after rhinoplasty. The occurrence of this is not predictable.

Unsatisfactory result – There is the possibility of a poor result from rhinoplasty. 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 and after surgery. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.

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

Long term effects – Subsequent alterations in nasal appearance may occur, as the result of aging, sun exposure or other circumstances not related to rhinoplasty surgery.

Nasal/septal perforation – There is a possibility that surgery will cause a hole in the nasal septum to develop.

Nasal airway alterations – Changes may occur after rhinoplasty or septoplasty that may interfere with the normal passage of air through the nose.

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 the risks and complications occur infrequently, the risks cited are particularly associated with rhinoplasty. 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 rhinoplasty 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.