

## **INFORMED CONSENT – MEDICAL TATTOOING & SKIN TREATMENT**

©2005 American Society of Plastic Surgeons®. Purchasers of the Patient Consultation Resource Book are given a limited license to modify documents contained herein and reproduce the modified version for use in the Purchaser's own practice only. All other rights are reserved by American Society of Plastic Surgeons®. Purchasers may not sell or allow any other party to use any version of the Patient Consultation Resource Book, any of the documents contained herein or any modified version of such documents.

# INFORMED CONSENT – MEDICAL TATTOOING AND SKIN TREATMENTS

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

This is an informed-consent document that has been prepared to help inform you about medical tattooing and skin treatment procedure(s), 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 and agreed upon by you.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Medical Tattooing and skin treatments have been performed for many years to treat a variety of skin disorders, and cosmetic and reconstructive concerns. Conditions such as sun damage, wrinkling, aging, and uneven pigmentation may be treated with these non-invasive permanent techniques. There are many different techniques and regimens for the application of medical tattooing and skin treatment medications. In some situations, medical tattooing may be performed at the time of other surgical procedures. It may be performed by your surgeon or other trained personnel.

Medical tattooing and other skin treatments procedures are an alternative to other reconstructive procedures, placement of make-up, when indicated. More than one application is often required and results may vary based on the location and indication. Medical tattooing can be altered but the procedure is permanent and can often not be reversed with surgery or laser techniques.

## **ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS**

Alternative forms of management include not treating the skin with medical tattooing or other medications. Improvement of scars, deformities, make-up may be accomplished by other treatments such as surgical and non-surgical techniques. Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative forms of treatment.

## **RISKS OF TATTOOING / SKIN TREATMENTS-**

Every procedure involves a certain amount of risk and it is important that you understand these risks and the possible complications associated with them. In addition, every procedure has limitations. An individual's choice to undergo a procedure is based on the comparison of the risk to potential benefit. Although the majority of patients do not experience these complications, you should discuss each of them with your plastic surgeon or medical staff to make sure you understand all possible consequences of medical tattooing and other forms of skin treatment.

**Infection-** Although infection following tattooing is unusual, bacterial, fungal, and viral infections can occur. **Herpes simplex virus** infections around the mouth can occur /reoccur following medical tattooing around the mouth or face. This applies to both individuals with a history of Herpes simplex virus infections and individuals with no known history of Herpes simplex virus infections in the mouth area. Specific medications must be prescribed and taken both prior to and following the procedure in order to suppress an infection from this virus. Should an infection occur, additional treatment including antibiotics, hospitalization, or additional surgery may be necessary.

**Scarring-** Although good wound healing after a procedure is expected, abnormal scars may occur within the skin and deeper tissues. In rare cases, keloid scars may result. Scars may be unattractive and of different color than the surrounding skin tone. Scar appearance may also vary within the same scar. Scars may be asymmetrical (appear different on the right and left side of the body). There is the possibility of visible marks in the skin from sutures. In some cases scars may require surgical revision or treatment. Medical paints and pigments can cause inflammation that may be lengthy or permanent.

## INFORMED CONSENT – MEDICAL TATTOOING AND SKIN TREATMENTS

**Color Change-** Tattooing can permanently lighten or darken the natural color of your skin. There is the possibility of irregular color variations within the skin including areas that are both lighter and darker. Permanent darkening of skin has occurred after tattooing. A line of demarcation between normal skin and skin treated with tattoo techniques can occur. Redness after tattooing may persist for unacceptably long periods of time. Medical tattooing can vary based on body location, color, or palette utilized. Often tattoos will fade with time and revision is required to address inconsistencies or unpredictable color change.

**Location and Asymmetry-** Medical tattooing is not a perfect science but more an art. Although most patients are satisfied with their results when the decision is made carefully, some exceptions can occur. Medical tattooing is never perfectly symmetric and changes in skin tone may effect location or size. Patients should look at a mock of the area to be tattooed prior to the procedure to ensure the color, location, and symmetry is correct before the procedure is performed. In rare cases, medical tattoos may need to be touched-up, revised, or removed. Time will not only effect the color but the location of medical tattoos.

**Sunburn-** Certain types of tattooing may permanently leave the skin very prone to sun burn. Skin after tattooing may lack the normal ability to tan (darken) when exposed to sunlight.

**Allergic Reactions-** In rare cases, allergies have been reported to drugs and agents used for medical tattooing or skin treatments, tape, suture materials and glues, blood products, topical preparations, and preservatives used in cosmetics. Serious systemic reactions including shock (anaphylaxis) may occur to drugs used during surgery and prescription medications. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.

**Lack of Permanent Results** – Medical tattooing or other skin treatments may not completely improve or prevent future skin disorders, lesions, make-up needs, or reconstructive demands. No technique can reverse the signs of skin aging or be completely predictable. Additional surgical or non-surgical procedures may be necessary to further address cosmetic or reconstructive needs. You may be required to continue with a skin care maintenance program after a tattooing procedure.

**Delayed Healing-** Wound disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. Some areas of the skin may not heal normally and may take a long time to heal. Skin healing may result in thin, easily injured skin. This is different from the normal redness in skin after a chemical peel. **Smokers have a greater risk of skin loss and wound healing complications.**

**Heart Problems-** Medical tattoo preparations containing phenol have been reported to produce abnormal heart beats that may require medical treatment should they occur during the procedure. This is a potentially serious problem.

**Skin Discoloration / Swelling-** Some swelling normally occurs following medical tattooing. The skin in or near the procedure site can appear either lighter or darker than surrounding skin. Although uncommon, swelling and skin discoloration may persist for long periods and, in rare situations, may be permanent.

**Skin Sensitivity-** Itching, tenderness, or exaggerated responses to hot or cold temperatures may occur. Usually this resolves during healing, but in rare situations it may be chronic.

**Surgical Anesthesia-** Both local and general anesthesia involves risk. There is the possibility of complications, injury, and even death from all forms of surgical anesthesia and sedation.

**Pain-** You will experience pain after or during your treatment. Pain of varying intensity and duration may occur and persist after surgery. Very infrequently, chronic pain may occur after chemical peel procedures.

**Unknown Risks-** There is the possibility that additional risk factors of medical tattooing and skin treatments may be discovered.

## INFORMED CONSENT – MEDICAL TATTOOING AND SKIN TREATMENTS

**Unsatisfactory Result-** Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee or warranty expressed or implied, on the results that may be obtained. There is the possibility of a poor result from these procedures. This would include risks such as unacceptable visible deformities, skin slough, loss of function, poor healing, permanent color changes in the skin and loss of sensation. It may be necessary to perform additional procedures to attempt to improve your results.

**Permanent Results-** Medical tattoos are permanent procedures that can not be reversed in most cases. It is important to participate in picking out the exact location of the tattoo and its color. Make sure you understand the effects of time, aging, and limitations of the procedure before undergoing medical tattooing. If you are you are undergoing permanent make-up placement you may want to test the color and position of the tattooing for a period of time before undergoing permanent tattooing. Be aware that styles change and if you are not sure about permanent tattooing do not undergo the procedure. Talk to your surgeon if you are concerned that medical tattooing may leave excessive scars or may limit surgical options in the future in any way. A frank and open discussion with your physician or medical staff member is always best. Never rush medical tattooing and understand it is permanent in most cases.

### **ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES**

**Long-Term Results-** Subsequent alterations in appearance may occur as the result of aging, weight loss or gain, sun exposure, pregnancy, menopause, or other circumstances not related to skin treatments or medical tattooing. Medical tattoos do not arrest the aging process or produce permanent tightening of the skin. Future surgery or other treatments may be necessary to maintain you results.

**Skin Lesion Recurrence-** Skin lesions can recur after medical tattooing or skin treatments. Additional treatment or secondary surgery may be necessary.

**Skin Cancer / Skin Disorders-** Medical tattooing and skin treatment procedures do not offer protection against developing skin cancer or skin disorders in the future.

**Female Patient Information-** It is important to inform your plastic surgeon or medical assistant if you use birth control pills, estrogen replacement, or if you believe you may be pregnant. Many medications including antibiotics may neutralize the preventive effect of birth control pills, allowing for conception and pregnancy.

### **Smoking, Second-Hand Smoke Exposure, Nicotine Products (Patch, Gum, Nasal Spray)-**

Patients who are currently smoking, use tobacco products, or nicotine products (patch, gum, or nasal spray) are at a greater risk for significant complications of skin dying, delayed healing, and additional scarring. Individuals exposed to second-hand smoke are also at potential risk for similar complications attributable to nicotine exposure. Additionally, smoking may have a significant negative effect on anesthesia and recovery from anesthesia, with coughing and possibly increased bleeding. Individuals who are not exposed to tobacco smoke or nicotine-containing products have a significantly lower risk of this type of complication. Please indicate your current status regarding these items below:

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a non-smoker and do not use nicotine products. I understand the risk of second-hand smoke exposure causing surgical complications.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a smoker or use tobacco / nicotine products. I understand the risk of surgical complications due to smoking or use of nicotine products.

It is important to refrain from smoking at least 6 weeks before surgery and until your physician states it is safe to return, if desired.

## INFORMED CONSENT – MEDICAL TATTOOING AND SKIN TREATMENTS

**Mental Health Disorders and Elective Surgery-** It is important that all patients seeking to undergo elective surgery have realistic expectations that focus on improvement rather than perfection. Complications or less than satisfactory results are sometimes unavoidable, may require additional surgery and often are stressful. Please openly discuss with your surgeon, prior to surgery, any history that you may have of significant emotional depression or mental health disorders. Although many individuals may benefit psychologically from the results of elective surgery, effects on mental health cannot be accurately predicted.

**Medications-** There are many adverse reactions that occur as the result of taking over-the-counter, herbal, and/or prescription medications. Be sure to check with your physician about any drug interactions that may exist with medications which you are already taking. If you have an adverse reaction, stop the drugs immediately and call your plastic surgeon for further instructions. If the reaction is severe, go immediately to the nearest emergency room. When taking the prescribed pain medications after surgery, realize that they can affect your thought process and coordination. Do not drive, do not operate complex equipment, do not make any important decisions, and do not drink any alcohol while taking these medications. Be sure to take your prescribed medication only as directed.

### **ADDITIONAL TREATMENT OR SURGERY NECESSARY**

There are many variable conditions which influence the long term result of medical tattooing and other skin treatments. Even though risks and complications occur infrequently, the risks cited are the ones that are particularly associated with these procedures. 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, on the results that may be obtained.

### **PATIENT COMPLIANCE**

Follow all physician instructions carefully; this is essential for the success of your outcome. Postoperative instructions concerning appropriate restriction of activity, use of dressings, and use of sun protection must be followed in order to avoid potential complications, increased pain, and unsatisfactory result. Your physician may recommend that you utilize a long-term skin care program to enhance healing following a chemical skin peel. Successful post-operative function depends on both treatment and subsequent care. Physical activity that increases your pulse or heart rate may cause bruising, swelling, fluid accumulation and the need for return to surgery. It is wise to refrain from intimate physical activities after surgery until your physician states it is safe. It is important that you participate in follow-up care, return for aftercare, and promote your recovery after medical tattooing or skin treatments.

### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

Many health insurance companies exclude coverage for cosmetic surgical procedures such as medical or cosmetic tattooing or skin treatments or any complications that might occur from the procedure. Please carefully review your health insurance subscriber-information pamphlet or contact your insurance company for a detailed explanation of their policies. **Most insurance plans exclude coverage for secondary or revisionary surgery.**

### **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The cost of your procedure involves several charges for the services provided. The total includes fees charged by your surgeon, 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. The fees charged for this procedure do not include any potential future costs for additional procedures that you elect to have or require in order to revise, optimize, or complete your outcome. Additional costs may occur should complications develop from the procedure. Secondary procedure or hospital day-surgery charges involved with revision will also be your responsibility. **In signing the consent for this surgery/procedure, you acknowledge that you have been informed about its risk and consequences and accept responsibility for the clinical decisions that were made along with the financial costs of all future treatments.**

## **INFORMED CONSENT – MEDICAL TATTOOING AND SKIN TREATMENTS**

### **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), including no surgery. 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 current 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.**

**INFORMED CONSENT – MEDICAL TATTOOING AND SKIN TREATMENTS**

**CONSENT FOR SURGERY / PROCEDURE or TREATMENT**

1. I hereby authorize Dr. \_\_\_Lowe\_\_\_\_\_ and such assistants as may be selected to perform the following procedure or treatment:

**Medical Tattooing and SKIN TREATMENTS**

I have received the following information sheet:

**INFORMED CONSENT – MEDICAL TATTOOING and SKIN TREATMENTS**

2. I recognize that during the course of the procedure and medical treatment or anesthesia, unforeseen conditions may necessitate different procedures than those above. I therefore authorize the above physician and assistants or designees to perform such other procedures that are in the exercise of his or her professional judgment necessary and desirable. The authority granted under this paragraph shall include all conditions that require treatment and are not known to my physician at the time the procedure is begun.
3. I consent to the administration of such anesthetics considered necessary or advisable. I understand that all forms of anesthesia involve risk and the possibility of complications, injury, and sometimes death.
4. I acknowledge that no guarantee or representation has been given by anyone as to the results that may be obtained.
5. I consent to be photographed or televised before, during, and after 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 the pictures.
6. For purposes of advancing medical education, I consent to the admittance of observers to the operating room.
7. I authorize the release of my Social Security number to appropriate agencies for legal reporting and medical-device registration, if applicable.
- 8.. I understand that the surgeons' fees are separate from the anesthesia and hospital charges, and the fees are agreeable to me. If a secondary procedure is necessary, further expenditure will be required.
9. I realize that not having the procedure is an option.
10. IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO ME IN A WAY THAT I UNDERSTAND:  
a. THE ABOVE TREATMENT OR PROCEDURE TO BE UNDERTAKEN  
b. THERE MAY BE ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES OR METHODS OF TREATMENT  
c. THERE ARE RISKS TO THE PROCEDURE OR TREATMENT PROPOSED

I CONSENT TO THE TREATMENT OR PROCEDURE AND THE ABOVE LISTED ITEMS (1-12). I AM SATISFIED WITH THE EXPLANATION.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient or Person Authorized to Sign for Patient

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Witness \_\_\_\_\_