

CONSENT FOR BROWLIFT SURGERY

The forehead and eyebrow region often show noticeable signs of aging. Looseness in these structures may cause drooping eyebrows, eyelid hooding, forehead furrows and frown lines. In brow lift surgery, the structures responsible for these problems are tightened or altered to smooth the forehead, raise the upper eyebrows, and improve frown lines. A brow lift may be performed alone, or in conjunction with other procedures, such as a facelift or eyelid surgery.

Advances in brow lift surgery make it possible to perform the procedure through a variety of approaches such as coronal, temporal, anterior hairline, mid-forehead, or endoscopic browlift. Your hairline and individual features help determine which technique best for you. Browlift surgery is individualized for each patient. The surgical incisions used may vary with the technique selected by your surgeon to meet your needs.

Low set or “ptotic” brows can occur with age, or it may be congenital (the way you were born). It can create a tired or angry look and if severe can even affect your ability to see well. Transverse wrinkles across the forehead and those between the eyebrows can be improved at the same time. However, a brow lift cannot stop the process of aging.

Browlift is an elective surgery, which means that it is being performed by choice rather than out of medical necessity. When considering elective surgery, the risks and benefits must be carefully weighed because the only way to avoid the risks entirely is by choosing not to have surgery.

We often describe patients as being “good” or “poor” candidates for a particular procedure. This decision is made after taking into consideration factors such as physical findings (e.g., skin quality, body weight, degree of deformity), medical health, history of smoking, emotional state, level of expectation, and whether in our hands, we can achieve a result that will meet your expectations. If you are told you are not currently a good candidate for a particular procedure, be sure to find out what, if anything, can be done to change this.

Alternative forms of treatment consist of not treating the laxness in the forehead and upper eyebrow region by brow lift surgery. Improvement of skin laxity and skin wrinkles may be attempted by other treatments or surgery such as laser resurfacing or chemical face peels. Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative surgical forms of treatment.

Every surgical 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 surgical 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 to make sure you understand all possible consequences of brow lift surgery. Every surgery we perform has some degree of unavoidable risk. This consent will talk about the more common risks associated with a **Browlift**.

- **Bleeding:** It is possible, though unusual, to experience a bleeding episode during or after surgery. Should post-operative bleeding occur, it may require emergency treatment to drain accumulated blood (hematoma). Do not take any blood-thinning medications including aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for two weeks before or after surgery, as this may increase the risk of bleeding. Non-prescription “herbs” and dietary supplements can increase the risk of surgical bleeding. Hematoma can occur at any time following injury and may delay healing and cause scarring. The face is very vascular and is affected by fluctuations in your blood pressure, especially with straining or activity. If you have a history of high blood pressure, be sure it is controlled before your surgery.
- **Infection:** Infection is unusual after surgery. Should an infection occur, additional treatment including antibiotics, hospitalization, or additional surgery may be necessary. Antibiotics will be given through your I.V. just prior to surgery and by mouth the week after. Washing your hair the morning of surgery with antibacterial soap (like Dial) isn’t great for your hairstyle, but can help to decrease the bacteria in your hair.

- **Hair Loss:** Incisions placed on the hair-bearing scalp can leave areas of hair loss. Infection, sutures, or tight closure may all increase the risk of this happening. The hairline will also be raised approximately 0.5 to 1 cm following a coronal brow lift.
- **Skin Discoloration / Swelling:** Some bruising and swelling normally occurs following a brow lift. The skin in or near the surgical site can appear either lighter or darker than surrounding skin. Although uncommon, swelling and skin discoloration may persist for long periods of time and, in rare situations, may be permanent.
- **Scarring:** All surgery leaves scars, some more visible than others. Although good wound healing after a surgical procedure is expected, abnormal scars may occur within the skin and deeper tissues. Excessive scarring is uncommon. 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, staples, or hardware used during a brow lift. Additional treatments including surgery may be necessary to treat abnormal scarring.
- **Change in Skin Sensation/Nerve Injury:** It is common to experience diminished (or loss) of skin sensation in areas that have had surgery. Diminished (or loss) of skin sensation in the face and scalp area may not totally resolve after brow lift surgery. Chronic itching sensations can occur within the scalp and brow area following a brow lift. Nerves that provide sensation to the forehead and scalp can be stretched or cut leaving areas of numbness. A “pins and needles” sensation in the scalp can be felt as these nerves heal. Motor nerves that tell muscles to raise the eyebrows can also be injured, but weakness of these muscles immediately following surgery is normal and usually returns after several weeks.
- **Skin Contour Irregularities:** Contour irregularities, depressions, and wrinkling of skin may occur after brow lift. Visible and palpable wrinkling of skin can occur. Residual skin irregularities at the ends of the incisions or “dog ears” are always a possibility and may require additional surgery. This may improve with time, or it can be surgically corrected.
- **Change in Surgical Approach for Brow Lift:** In some situations, depending on factors discovered only at the time of surgery, your surgeon may have to make changes in surgical technique and approach to the brow lift procedure. This may require changing from an endoscopic (closed) technique to a standard (open) brow lift technique.
- **Asymmetry:** The human face is normally asymmetrical. There can be a variation from one side to the other in the results obtained from a brow lift procedure. Additional surgery may be necessary to attempt to revise asymmetry. People are rarely perfectly symmetric either before or after surgery. Asymmetry of the eyebrows is more common following endoscopic browlift than after coronal browlift.
- **Residual Wrinkles:** The transverse wrinkles on the forehead will be decreased, but possibly not removed. Laser resurfacing or a chemical peel may be helpful in further reducing the wrinkles. Most of the muscles that cause wrinkles between the eyebrows can be removed at the time of surgery, but some may continue to function. This area is best treated with Botox injections if the muscles work too well after surgery. It is not good to overcorrect the brow position in an attempt to remove wrinkles. This may leave you with a surprised or unnatural look.
- **Methods of Fixation:** Some surgical techniques use small screws or permanent deep sutures to help suspend brow structures. When a coronal browlift is not possible because of hairline problems, an endoscopic technique (using a camera and smaller incisions) may be necessary. The brows are pulled up by sutures that are attached to a fixed structure, rather than removing a strip of scalp as with the coronal brow lift. These fixed structures may be absorbable, or removable screws placed into the outer layer of the skull. These may come loose, be palpable (evident to touch) or very rarely go too deep and cause bleeding. Sutures may spontaneously poke through the skin, become visible or produce irritation that requires removal. In very unusual circumstances, a screw could penetrate through the skull. Intracranial injury is

rare, but possible. If this occurs, additional treatment may be necessary. It may be necessary to remove hardware or deeper sutures at a later time.

- **Delayed Healing:** Wound disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. Some areas of the brow and scalp may not heal normally and may take a long time to heal. Some areas of skin may die, requiring frequent dressing changes or further surgery to remove the non-healed tissue. **Smokers have a greater risk of skin loss and wound healing complications.**
- **Eyelid Disorders:** Disorders that involve abnormal position of the upper eyelids (eyelid ptosis), loose eyelid skin, or abnormal laxness of the lower eyelid (ectropion) can coexist with sagging forehead and eyebrow structures. Brow lift surgery will not correct these disorders. Surgical procedures other than brow lift may be necessary.
- **Allergic Reactions:** In rare cases, local allergies to tape, suture materials and glues, blood products, topical preparations or injected agents have been reported. Serious systemic reactions including shock (anaphylaxis) may occur to drugs used during surgery and prescription medications. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.
- **Seroma:** Fluid accumulations infrequently occur in between the skin and the underlying tissues. Should this problem occur, it may require additional procedures for drainage of fluid.
- **Eye Irritation:** Irritation or dryness in the eyes may occur after a brow lift or when the patient has eyelid surgery performed at the same time.
- **Pain:** You will experience pain after your surgery. Pain of varying intensity and duration may occur and persist after brow lift surgery. Chronic pain may occur very infrequently from nerves becoming trapped in scar tissue.
- **Skin Sensitivity:** Itching, tenderness, or exaggerated responses to hot or cold temperatures may occur after surgery. Usually this resolves during healing, but in rare situations it may be chronic.
- **Hair Loss:** Hair loss may occur within the scalp or surgical incisions. The occurrence of this is not predictable. Hair loss may resolve slowly or in rare cases be permanent.
- **Unsatisfactory Result:** Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee or warranty expressed or implied, on the results that may be obtained. You may be disappointed with your results of browlift surgery. This would include risks such as asymmetry, unsatisfactory surgical scar location, unacceptable visible deformities at the ends of the incisions (dog ears), loss of facial movement, poor healing, wound disruption, and loss of sensation. It may be necessary to perform additional surgery to attempt to improve your results.
- **Cardiac and Pulmonary Complications:** Surgery, especially longer procedures, may be associated with the formation of, or increase in, blood clots in the venous system. Pulmonary complications may occur secondarily to both blood clots (pulmonary emboli), fat deposits (fat emboli) or partial collapse of the lungs after general anesthesia. Pulmonary and fat emboli can be life-threatening or fatal in some circumstances. Air travel, inactivity and other conditions may increase the incidence of blood clots traveling to the lungs causing a major blood clot that may result in death. It is important to discuss with your physician any past history of blood clots or swollen legs that may contribute to this condition. Cardiac complications are a risk with any surgery and anesthesia, even in patients without symptoms. If you experience shortness of breath, chest pains, or unusual heart beats, seek medical attention immediately. Should any of these complications occur, you may require hospitalization and additional treatment.
- **Anesthesia Risks:** Browlift surgery is usually performed under general anesthesia, but sedation is also possible. Both local and general anesthesia involves risk. There is the possibility of complications, injury, and even death from all forms of surgical anesthesia or sedation. The risk of getting a blood clot (deep venous thrombosis) is decreased by placing special stockings on the legs prior to surgery. The best type of anesthesia for you may be discussed with your surgeon and anesthesiologist.

ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES

Long-Term Results- Subsequent alterations in forehead and upper eyebrow appearance may occur as the result of aging, weight loss or gain, sun exposure, pregnancy, menopause, or other circumstances not related to brow lift surgery. Brow lift surgery does not arrest the aging process or produce permanent tightening of the forehead. Future surgery or other treatments may be necessary to maintain the results of a brow lift procedure.

Skin Disorders / Skin Cancer- A brow lift is a surgical procedure for the tightening of skin and deeper structures of the face. Skin disorders and skin cancer may occur independently of a brow lift.

Previous Surgical Scars- The presence of surgical scars from previous facial surgery may limit the amount of skin tightening that can be produced.

Female Patient Information- It is important to inform your plastic surgeon 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.

Intimate Relations After Surgery- Surgery involves coagulating of blood vessels and increased activity of any kind may open these vessels leading to a bleed, or hematoma. Activity that increases your pulse or heart rate may cause additional bruising, swelling, and the need for return to surgery and control bleeding. It is wise to refrain from sexual activity until your physician states it is safe.

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 surgical 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.

Mental Health 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 issues. 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 SURGERY NECESSARY

There are many variable conditions that may influence the long-term result of brow lift surgery. Secondary surgery may be necessary to obtain optimal results. Should complications occur, additional surgery or other treatments may be necessary. Even though risks and complications occur infrequently, the risks cited are particularly associated with facelift 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. In some situations, it may not be possible to achieve optimal results with a single surgical procedure. Surgical revisions may be necessary. If what needs correction is due to a problem with the original surgery, there will be no charge by the surgeon but a facility or hospital fee cannot be waived.

PATIENT COMPLIANCE

Follow all physician instructions carefully; this is essential for the success of your outcome. It is important that the surgical incisions are not subjected to excessive force, swelling, abrasion, or motion during the time of healing. Personal and vocational activity needs to be restricted. Protective dressings and drains should not be removed unless instructed by your plastic surgeon. Successful post-operative function depends on both surgery 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 surgery.

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 this consent.

Medicine is not an exact science, so no guarantee can be made regarding complications or outcome. We do everything possible to ensure your safety, and strive for the best result in every case. We hope that you will also do your part by following your post-operative instructions, using good judgment, and letting us know if there are any problems.

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Please ask any questions regarding the surgery or potential risks prior to signing this form. Your signature means that you have had a chance to read and discuss the common risks associated with browlift surgery, and that you agree to proceed. A separate consent form from the hospital will also need to be signed for the medical record.

I CONSENT TO THE TREATMENT OF BROWLIFT AND I HAVE READ THE ABOVE LISTED ITEMS.
I AM SATISFIED WITH THE INFORMED CONSENT PROCESS

Patient or Person Authorized to Sign for Patient

Date

Witness

Date