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INFORMED CONSENT – ABDOMINOPLASTY (Tummy tuck)

INSTRUCTIONS

This is an informed-consent document that has been prepared to help your plastic surgeon inform you of abdominoplasty surgery, its risks, as well as alternative treatments.

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.

INTRODUCTION

Abdominoplasty is a surgical procedure to remove excess skin and fatty tissue from the middle and lower abdomen and to tighten muscles of the abdominal wall. Abdominoplasty is not surgical treatment for being overweight. Obese individuals who intend to lose weight should postpone all forms of body contouring surgery until they have been able to maintain their weight loss.

There are a variety of different techniques used by plastic surgeons for abdominoplasty. Abdominoplasty can be combined with other forms of body-contouring surgery, including suction assisted lipectomy (liposuction), or performed at the same time with other elective surgeries.

Patient Initials

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS

Alternative forms of management consist of NOT treating the areas of loose skin and fatty deposits. Suction assisted lipectomy (liposuction) surgery may be a surgical alternative to abdominoplasty if there is good skin tone and localized abdominal fatty deposits in an individual of normal weight. Diet and exercise programs may be of benefit in the overall reduction of excess body fat. Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative forms of treatment that involve surgery

RISKS of ABDOMINOPLASTY (Tummy tuck) SURGERY

Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk and it is important that you understand the risks involved with abdominoplasty. 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 the following complications, you should discuss each of them with your plastic surgeon to make sure you understand all possible consequences of abdominoplasty.

Bleeding – It is possible, though unusual, to experience a bleeding episode during or after surgery. Should post-operative bleeding occur, it might require emergency treatment to drain accumulated blood or blood transfusion. Do not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications to ten days before 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.

Change in skin sensation – Diminished (or loss of) skin sensation in the lower abdominal area may not totally resolve after abdominoplasty.

Skin contour irregularities – Contour irregularities and depressions may occur after abdominoplasty. Visible and palpable wrinkling of skin can occur.

Patient Initials

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

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 of sedation.

Asymmetry – Symmetrical body appearance may not result from abdominoplasty. Factors such as skin tone, fatty deposits, bony prominence, and muscle tone may contribute to normal asymmetry in body features.

Delayed healing – Wound disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. Some areas of the abdomen may not heal normally and may take a long time to heal. Some areas of skin may die. This may require frequent dressing changes or further surgery to remove the non-healed tissue. Smokers have a greater risk of skin loss and wound healing complications.

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

Pulmonary complications – Pulmonary complications may occur secondarily to both blood clots (pulmonary emboli) and 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 circumstances.

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

Umbilicus – Malposition, scarring, unacceptable appearance loss of the umbilicus (navel) may occur.

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Long term effects – Subsequent alterations in body contour may occur as the result of aging, weight loss or gain, pregnancy, or other circumstances not related to abdominoplasty.

Pain – Chronic pain may occur very infrequently from nerves becoming trapped in scar tissue after abdominoplasty.

Other – You may be disappointed with the results of surgery. Infrequently, it is necessary to perform additional surgery to improve your results.

Patient to Sign

Date _____ Witness _____