



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
PLASTIC SURGEONS®

# Informed Consent

## BLEPHAROPLASTY (EYELID SURGERY)

- UPPER EYELIDS
- CORRUGATOR MUSCLE DIVISION
- LOWER EYELIDS

## BROW LIFT

- CORONAL
- HAIRLINE
- ENDOSCOPIC
- OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

This is an informed consent document. It will help you learn more about blepharoplasty and brow lift surgery. You will learn about the procedure and its potential risks. You will also learn about other treatments you might choose.

It is important that you read the whole document carefully. Please initial each page. Doing so means you have read the page. Then, if you agree with your plastic surgeon's plan, please sign the consent form at the end. Signing the consent agreement means that you agree to the treatment that you have talked about with your plastic surgeon.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Blepharoplasty is a surgery to remove extra skin and muscle from the upper and lower eyelids. Some of the fatty tissue that causes bagginess is removed or moved around. Blepharoplasty can make the skin look less droopy and baggy. It can also improve eyesight in older patients with hooded upper eyelids. For Asians, an upper eyelid crease can be added. However, it will not make one look different, racially or ethnically. Blepharoplasty will not remove "crow's feet" or other wrinkles. It will not get rid of dark circles under the eyes or lift sagging eyebrows.

Blepharoplasty is customized for each patient. It can be done on just the upper or lower eyelid or on both eyelids. This surgery may be performed with other surgical procedures on the eye, face, brow, or nose. For patients who have looseness between the lower eyelid and the eyeball, tightening of the lower eyelid may be suggested at the time of blepharoplasty. Eyelid surgery cannot stop the skin from aging. It can only reduce the appearance of loose skin and bagginess in the eyelid area.

The forehead and eyebrows often show visible signs of aging. Looseness in these areas may cause drooping eyebrows, eyelid hooding, forehead furrows, and frown lines. During brow lift surgery, these areas are tightened or changed to make the forehead smooth, raise the upper eyebrows, and make the frown lines look better. A brow lift may be done alone or with other procedures such as a facelift or eyelid surgery.

A brow lift can be done in many ways, including an endoscopy. The surgical cuts may vary with the technique chosen by your surgeon to meet your needs. The brow lift cannot slow down aging.

## **ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS**

Other types of treatment include not treating the skin looseness and bagginess in the eyelids, forehead, and upper eyebrow by surgery. You may need other forms of eyelid surgery if you have disorders that affect the function of the eyelid, such as drooping eyelids from muscle problems or looseness between the eyelid and eyeball. Minor skin wrinkling may be improved with chemical skin peels, lasers, or other skin treatments. Alternative treatments may have risks and other problems.

## **INHERENT RISKS OF BLEPHAROPLASTY AND BROW LIFT SURGERY**

Every surgery has risks. It is important that you understand these risks. You must also understand the possible problems that can result from them. You must decide whether the possible benefits of surgery outweigh the possible risks. Most patients do not have problems, but you should talk about this with your surgeon. Make sure that you understand everything that might happen during and after blepharoplasty and brow lift surgery.

## **Specific Risks of Blepharoplasty and Brow Lift Surgery**

### **Bleeding**

There may be some bleeding during or after surgery, although it is rare. Bleeding may occur under the skin or internally around the eyeball. If bleeding occurs, you may need emergency treatment or surgery. Do not take aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for ten days before surgery. Such medications may increase the chances of bleeding. Nonprescription "herbs" and dietary supplements can also increase the chances

of bleeding. High blood pressure that is not under control may cause bleeding during or after surgery. If blood collects under the skin, it may slow down healing and cause scars.

**Blindness**

Blindness is extremely rare after blepharoplasty. However, it can be caused by internal bleeding around the eye during or after surgery. We cannot predict whether it will occur.

**Infection**

Infection is rare after surgery. If an infection occurs, further treatment including antibiotics may be necessary.

**Scarring**

We expect good wound healing after a surgical procedure. Abnormal scarring may occur within the skin and the deeper tissues. In rare cases, abnormal scars may occur. Scars may look ugly. The color of the scar may be different from the color of the skin around it. There may be visible marks in the eyelid or small skin cysts from stitches. You may need more treatment for scarring.

**Skin Contour Irregularities**

You may see contour irregularities, dents, and wrinkling of skin after a brow lift.

**Change in Skin Sensation**

Reduced (or loss of) sensation in the face and scalp area may not go away after brow lift surgery. You may feel itchy on the scalp and brow for a long time.

**Damage to Deeper Structures**

Deeper structures such as nerves, blood vessels, and eye muscles may become damaged during the surgery. The chance of this happening depends on the type of blepharoplasty. These injuries may be temporary or permanent.

**Nerve Injury**

Both motor and sensory nerves may be injured during a brow lift. You may have reduced or complete loss of forehead or upper eyebrow movement after surgery. In most cases, you will notice motor function resumes. Permanent weakness is rare. The sensory nerves of the forehead, scalp, and temple regions may also become injured. Reduced sensation usually occurs in the scalp region after a brow lift. Permanent numbness or painful nerve scarring is rare.

**Dry Eye Problems**

You may have permanent disorders such as decreased tear production after blepharoplasty. This is rare, but we cannot predict whether it will occur. Individuals who normally have dry eyes may need to think carefully before getting blepharoplasty surgery.

**Asymmetry**

The human face and eyelid region are normally asymmetrical. One side may look different from the other side after blepharoplasty surgery.

**Chronic Pain**

Chronic pain is rare after a blepharoplasty.

**Skin Disorders/Skin Cancer**

Blepharoplasty is done to tighten the loose skin and deeper structures of the eyelid. Skin disorders and skin cancer may occur whether or not you have eyelid surgery.

**Ectropion**

The lower eyelid may move away from the eyeball, but this is rare. Further surgery may be needed to treat this condition.

**Corneal Exposure Problems**

Some patients may find it difficult to close their eyelids after surgery. There may be problems in the cornea due to dryness, but this is rare. In this case, more treatment or surgery may be necessary.

**Hair Loss**

Hair loss may occur within the scalp or at the site of the surgical cuts. We cannot predict whether this will occur. Hair loss may improve slowly. In rare cases, it may be permanent.

**Hardware and Deeper Stitches**

In some surgeries, small screws or permanent deep stitches may be used to hold up brow structures. In rare cases, a screw may go through the skull. Injury within the skull is rare, but it is possible. If this occurs, more treatment may be necessary. It may be necessary to remove the hardware or deeper stitches at a later time.

**Unsatisfactory Result**

The results of the surgery may not be satisfactory. Surgery may result in visible imperfections, loss of function, wound disruption, and loss of sensation. You may not be happy with the results of the surgery. Sometimes, another surgery will be necessary to improve your results. More surgeries such as a brow lift may be needed to improve eyebrow sagging that causes upper eyelid problems.

**Eyelash Loss**

You may lose hair in the lower eyelash area, where the skin is raised during surgery. We cannot predict whether eyelash loss will occur. Eyelash loss may be temporary or permanent.

**Corrugator Muscle Division**

In order to frown, the eyebrows are lowered by pairs of muscles above the eyelid. These muscles include the corrugator muscles. If they are cut and partially removed during upper blepharoplasty, the ability to frown may be reduced or lost permanently. However, other muscles may still have a similar function. Therefore, loss of frowning ability may not happen. You may have forehead numbness and brow irregularities after this surgery.

**Delayed Healing**

You may have wound disruption or delayed healing. Some areas of the skin may not heal normally. It may take a long time to heal. There may also be loss of skin. This may require frequent dressing changes. You may need another surgery to remove the unhealed tissue.

**Smokers are at a greater risk of skin loss and wound healing problems.**

**Allergic Reactions**

In rare cases, tape, suture materials, or topical substances may cause local allergies. There may be reactions to drugs used during surgery and prescription medicines. These reactions may require more treatment.

**Blood Clots**

Surgery may cause blood clots in the veins of the arms, legs, or pelvis. This may also be caused by restricted movements. These clots may cause problems in the veins. They may also break off and flow to the lungs where they may cause serious breathing problems.

**Pulmonary Complications**

There may be problems with pulmonary functions (lungs and breathing) because of blood clots. In some

cases, the lungs may partially collapse after general anesthesia. If any such problem occurs, you may need to be hospitalized for further treatment. Sometimes, pulmonary clots can cause serious problems or death. Fat embolism syndrome occurs when fat droplets are trapped in the lungs. This is rare.

**Long-term Effects**

The eyelid may look different due to aging, weight loss or gain, sun exposure, or other reasons not related to surgery. Blepharoplasty and brow surgery do not stop the aging process. They also do not permanently tighten the eyelid region. Further surgery or treatment may be necessary to maintain the results of a blepharoplasty and brow lift.

**Surgical Anesthesia**

Both local and general anesthesia have risks. Health problems, injury, and even death are possible from all forms of surgical anesthesia or sedation.

**Death or Serious Injury**

In rare cases, serious problems like stroke, heart attack, and even death have resulted from surgery.

**DISCLAIMER**

Informed consent documents give you information about a surgery you are considering. These documents explain the risks of that surgery. They also discuss other treatment options, including not having surgery. This information should meet most people's needs.

However, informed consent documents can't cover everything. Your plastic surgeon may give you more or different information. This may be based on the facts of your particular case and current medical knowledge.

Informed consent documents are not meant to define or serve as the standard of medical care. Standards of medical care are determined based on the facts of each individual case. They may change with advances in science and technology. They can also change with the way doctors practice medicine.

**It is important that you read the above information carefully. Make sure to have all of your questions answered before signing the consent on the next page.**

## CONSENT for SURGERY/PROCEDURE or TREATMENT

1. I permit Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ and the doctor's assistants to perform any or all of the following operations for Blepharoplasty and Brow Lift Surgery.
2. I have received the information sheet on Blepharoplasty and Brow Lift Surgery.
3. I understand that, during the procedure, an unexpected situation may require a different medical procedure than the procedure listed above. I permit the doctor listed above, the assistants, and/or designees to provide any treatment(s) that my doctor thinks are needed or helpful. My permission includes all treatments that my doctor does not plan to do at the start of the procedure.
4. I understand what my surgeon can and cannot do. I understand that no warranties or guarantees have been hinted at or stated outright about the outcome of the procedure. I have explained my goals. I understand which outcomes are realistic and which are not. All my questions have been answered. I understand the procedure's risks. I am aware of other risks and possible issues, benefits, and options. I understand and choose to have the procedure.
5. I agree to the anesthetics and medications that are needed or helpful. I understand that all types of anesthesia have risks and may result in complications, injury, and even death.
6. I am aware of the serious risks to my health when blood products are used. I agree to my doctor using them if my doctor, assistants, and/or designees think they are needed or helpful.
7. I agree to the disposal of any tissue, medical devices, or body parts taken out during or after this procedure. I also agree to any additional surgeries or treatments that are needed or helpful.
8. I agree to have parts of my body photographed or televised appropriately before, during, and after the procedure for medical, scientific, or educational reasons, if the pictures do not reveal my identity.
9. For medical education, I agree that onlookers can be in the operating room.
10. I permit my Social Security Number to be given to the right agencies for legal reasons and medical device registration, when necessary.
11. I agree to the charges for this procedure. I understand that the doctor's charges are separate from the charges for the hospital and the anesthesia. I understand that there may be more charges if more procedures or treatments are needed or helpful. I agree to those charges, if any.
12. I understand that not having the procedure is an option and that I can opt out of having the procedure.
13. IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO ME IN A WAY THAT I UNDERSTAND:
  - a. THE ABOVE PROCEDURE OR TREATMENT TO BE PERFORMED
  - b. THERE MAY BE OTHER PROCEDURES OR TREATMENTS
  - c. THERE ARE RISKS TO THIS PROCEDURE OR TREATMENT

I CONSENT TO THE PROCEDURE OR TREATMENT AND THE ABOVE LISTED ITEMS (1-13).  
I AM SATISFIED WITH THE EXPLANATION AND HAVE NO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date/Time

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date/Time