



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
PLASTIC SURGEONS®

# Informed Consent

## Hepatitis and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Testing



### **INSTRUCTIONS**

It is important that you read this whole document carefully. Please initial each page. Doing so means you have read the page. Signing the consent agreement means that you agree to the testing that you have talked about with your plastic surgeon.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Hepatitis**

Viral hepatitis infects the liver. There are many different types of hepatitis. Tests can show what type a patient has. They can show whether someone is a carrier. Carriers may infect others through body fluids. Tests can also show if someone is immune after getting hepatitis vaccine(s).

All forms of hepatitis are serious. It can cause chronic liver disorders, even cancer. A patient may have different hepatitis viruses.

#### **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)**

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) can lead to death. It affects the immune system. It is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The virus is spread through sex, blood, or by birth. Intravenous drug users, hemophiliacs, and people who have sex with another infected individual are at high risk. A person infected with HIV may not know of the disease. They may remain healthy for years but can still spread the virus. AIDS typically takes many years to develop.

Blood tests can identify if a person has hepatitis and/or HIV infection.

### **HEPATITIS AND HIV TEST**

Before a hepatitis and HIV test, please read the following.

1. **Purpose.** This test shows if you have hepatitis and/or HIV. It does not test for AIDS. AIDS can only be diagnosed by medical assessment.
2. **Positive test results.** If you test positive, you may have hepatitis and/or HIV. You should seek treatment with your primary care doctor.
3. **Accuracy.** The test is not 100% correct. Possible errors include
  - a. False **positive**. You test positive even though you are not infected. This is rare. Retesting will confirm a positive test.
  - b. False **negative**. You test negative even though you are infected. This is most likely seen in recently infected persons.

### **OTHER OPTIONS**

Think carefully about why you are having the test done. Ask the person testing you if there are other options.

### **BENEFITS**

Tests give you useful information. Infected individuals may prevent spreading the virus to others. If found early, treatment for HIV with medication can delay the onset of AIDS.

### **RISKS**

A positive test result may cause anxiety. You may not get life, health, or disability insurance. Although it is illegal, you may face discrimination in housing, employment, or public accommodations.

These tests and your results are private unless you state otherwise. In some cases, disclosure may be required. Ask the person giving the test whether you have to give authorization to release this information and, if so, to whom.

If your test is positive, your doctor may suggest more treatment and tests. This will result in more expenses.

All costs are yours even if the test results are negative.



**ASK QUESTIONS**

Please ask any questions about AIDS, the HIV test, hepatitis, or the results. This is your right. Get answers before you agree to testing.

**OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

For more information about AIDS, HIV, hepatitis, and lab tests, call your local city or state health department.

**RELEASE OF RESULTS**

If you wish to have the results of test released to others, like insurance companies, other health care providers, or governmental agencies, you must sign a separate release-of-medical-information form.

**I HAVE READ THIS FORM. I AGREE TO TEST FOR HIV AND HEPATITIS.**

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE/TIME \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS \_\_\_\_\_

DATE/TIME \_\_\_\_\_

