



BOULDER VALLEY  
**PLASTIC  
SURGERY**

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## **INFORMED CONSENT - NECKLIFT SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS**

This is an informed-consent document that has been prepared to help your plastic surgeon inform you concerning necklift surgery, 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.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Necklift is a surgical procedure to improve visible sign of aging on the neck. As individuals age, the skin and muscles of the face region begin deeper structures, re-draping the skin of face and neck. A necklift can be performed alone, or in conjunction with other procedure, such as a browlift, liposuction, eyelid surgery, or nasal surgery. Necklift surgery is individualized for each patient. The best candidates for necklift surgery have a face and neck line has begun to sag, but whose skin has elasticity and whose bony structures are well defined.

### **ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT**

Alternative forms of management consist of not treating the laxness in the face and neck region with a necklift. Improvement of skin laxity, skin wrinkles and fatty deposits may be attempted by other treatments or surgery such as chemical face peels or liposuction. Risks and potential complications re-associated with alternative forms of treatment.

### **RISK OF NECKLIFT SURGERY**

Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk and it is important that you understand the risks involved with necklift. 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 the risks, potential complications, and consequences of necklift.

**Bleeding** – It is possible, though unusual, that you may have problems with bleeding during or after surgery. Should post-operative bleeding occur, it might require emergency treatment to drain accumulated blood or require a blood transfusion. Do not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medication for ten days before surgery, as this contributes to a greater risk of bleeding. Hypertension (high blood pressure) that is not under good medical control may cause bleeding during or after surgery. Accumulations of blood under the skin may delay healing and cause scarring.

**Infection** – Infection is unusual after this surgery. Should an infection occur, additional treatment including antibiotics or surgery may be necessary.

**Scarring** – Although wound healing after a surgical procedure is expected, abnormal scars may occur within the skin and deeper tissues. Scars may be unattractive and of different color than the surrounding skin. There is the possibility of visible marks from sutures. Additional treatments may be needed to treat scarring.

## **Risk of Necklift (Rhytidectomy) Surgery, continued**

**Damage to deeper structures** - deeper structures such as blood vessels, muscles, and particularly nerves may be damaged during the course of surgery. The potential for this to occur varies with the type of facelift procedure performed. Injury to deeper structures may be temporary or permanent.

**Asymmetry** – The human face is normally asymmetrical. There can be a variation from one side to the other in the results obtained from a necklift procedure.

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

**Nerve injury** – Motor and sensory nerves may be injured during a necklift operation. Weakness or loss of facial movements may occur after necklift surgery. Nerve injuries may cause temporary or permanent numbness. Painful nerve scarring is very rare.

**Chronic pain** – Chronic pain is a very rare complication after a necklift.

**Skin disorders/skin cancer** – a necklift is a surgical procedure for the tightening of skin and deeper structures of the neck. Skin disorders and skin cancer may occur independently of a necklift.

**Unsatisfactory result** – There is the possibility of a poor result from the necklift surgery. This would include risks such as unacceptable visible deformities, loss of facial movement, wound disruption, and loss of sensation. You may be disappointed with the results of surgery. Infrequently, it is necessary to perform additional surgery to improve your result.

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

**Hair loss** – Hair loss may occur in areas of the neck where the skin was elevated during surgery. The occurrence of this is not predictable.

**Delayed healing** – Wound disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. Some areas of the neck may not heal normally or may take a long time to heal. Areas of skin may die. Frequent dressing changes or further surgery may be required to remove the non-healed tissue.

**Smokers have a greater risk of skin loss and wound healing complications**

**Long term effects** – Subsequent alterations in facial appearance may occur as the result of aging, weight loss or gain, sun exposure, or other circumstances not related to necklift surgery. Necklift surgery does not arrest the aging process or produce permanent tightening of the face and neck. Future surgery or other treatments may be necessary to maintain the results of a necklift operation.

#### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

Most health insurance companies exclude coverage from cosmetic surgical operations such as the necklift or any complications that might occur from surgery. Please carefully review your health insurance subscriber-information pamphlet.

#### **ADDITIONAL SURGERY NECESSARY**

There are many variable conditions in addition to risk and potential surgical complications that may influence the long term result from necklift surgery. Even though risks and complications occur infrequently, the risks cited are the ones that are particularly associated with necklift surgery. 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.

#### **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The cost of surgery involves several charges for the services provided. The total includes fees charged by your doctor, the cost of surgical supplies, anesthesia, laboratory test, 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. Additional costs may occur should complications develop from the surgery. Secondary surgery with revisionary surgery would also be your responsibility.

#### **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).

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 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.**

**CONSENT FOR SURGERY / PROCEDURE OF TREATMENT**

1. I hereby authorize Dr. Jeffrey Swail M.D. and such assistants as may be selected to Perform the following procedure or treatment:

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I have received the following information sheet:

**INFORMED CONSENT for (RHYTIDECTOMY) NECKLIFT SURGERY**

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2. I recognize that during the course of the operation 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 is 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 has been given by anyone as to the results that may be obtained.

5. I consent to the photographing or televising of 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 consent to the disposal of any tissue, medical devices or body parts that may be removed.

8. I authorize the release of my identity card number to appropriate agencies for legal Reporting and medical-device registration, if applicable.

9. 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 (1-9). I AM SATISFIED WITH THE EXPLANATION.

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Patient Signature Date

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