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## TATTOO REMOVAL CONSENT

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

This is an informed-consent document that has been prepared to help inform you about tattoo removal, its risks, as well as alternative treatment(s). 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 and agreed upon by you.

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The surgical removal of a tattoo is a procedure frequently performed by plastic surgeons. Because tattoos will not disappear spontaneously, surgical removal is a treatment option. There are many different techniques for removing tattoos. Various surgical procedures may be involved in reconstruction after the tattoo is removed. Your surgeon will review which surgical procedures may be required to close your wound and provide you with a functional result that is least disfiguring as reasonably possible. Sometimes more than one surgical procedure can be required to accomplish these goals. There is no guarantee on how much of a tattoo can be removed in one procedure or if the entire tattoo can be removed. Additional excisions may be needed.

### **ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS**

Alternative forms of management include not treating the tattoo, the use of medications applied to the skin tattoo, and destruction by non-surgical techniques. There are risks and potential complications associated with alternative methods of tattoo removal.

### **INHERENT RISKS OF TATTOO REMOVAL**

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 most 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 tattoo removal surgery.

### **SPECIFIC RISKS OF – TATTOO REMOVAL SURGERY**

#### **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. Diminished (or loss of) skin sensation in the area may occur and not totally resolve after tattoo removal surgery.

#### **Skin Contour Irregularities:**

Contour and shape irregularities may occur. Visible and palpable wrinkling of skin may occur. Residual skin irregularities at the ends of the incisions or "dog ears" are always a possibility when there is excessive redundant skin. This may improve with time, or it can be surgically corrected. Contour irregularities and depressions may occur after tattoo removal surgery. Visible and palpable wrinkling or folds of skin can occur. Hypertrophic and keloid scarring risks are much higher for these procedures.

### **GENERAL RISKS OF SURGERY**

#### **Bleeding:**

It is possible, though unusual, to experience a bleeding episode during or after surgery. Should postoperative bleeding occur, it may require emergency treatment to drain accumulated blood, or you may require a blood transfusion, though such occurrences are rare. The collection of blood that can occur under your skin following surgery is referred to as hematoma. Increased activity too soon after surgery can lead to an increased chance of bleeding and additional surgery. It is important to follow postoperative instructions and limit exercise and strenuous activity for the instructed time. Non-prescription "herbs" and dietary supplements can increase the risk of surgical bleeding. Hematomas can occur at any time, usually in the first three weeks following injury to the operative area. If blood transfusions are necessary to treat blood loss, there is the risk of blood-related infections such as hepatitis and HIV (AIDS). Your surgeon may provide medications after your surgery to prevent blood clots. Medications that are used to prevent blood clots in veins can produce bleeding and decrease blood platelets.

#### **Infection:**

Infection, although uncommon, can occur after surgery. Should an infection occur, additional treatment, including antibiotics, hospitalization, or additional surgery, may be necessary. It is important to tell your surgeon of any other infections, such as a history of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections, an open wound, recent upper respiratory infection/pneumonia, ingrown toenail, insect bite, tooth abscess, or urinary tract infection. Infections in other parts of the body may lead to an infection in the operated area. Postoperative infections often result in more extensive scarring and predispose to revision surgery.

### **Scarring:**

All surgery leaves scars, some more visible than others. Although good wound healing after a surgical procedure is expected, this surgery will result in long, prominent scars that are permanent. Abnormal scars may occur within the skin and deeper tissues. 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 a possibility of visible marks in the skin from sutures. These scars may become raised, red, or discolored in the first few weeks/months, but usually settle down over time. However, some patients are prone to “hypertrophic” or “keloid” scars (i.e., prominent, raised, red scars that do not settle). Further treatments with medications and/or surgery may be required.

### **Asymmetry:**

Symmetrical body appearance may not result after surgery. Factors such as skin tone, fatty deposits, skeletal prominence, and muscle tone may contribute to normal asymmetry in body features. Most patients have differences between the right and left side of their bodies before any surgery is performed. Additional surgery may be necessary to attempt to diminish asymmetry.

### **Healing Issues:**

Certain medical conditions, dietary supplements, and medications may delay and interfere with healing. Patients with massive weight loss may have a healing delay that could result in the incisions coming apart, infection, and tissue changes resulting in the need for additional medical care, surgery, and prolonged hospitalizations. Patients with diabetes or those taking medications such as steroids on an extended basis may have prolonged healing issues. Smoking will cause a delay in the healing process, often resulting in the need for additional surgery. There are general risks associated with healing, such as swelling, bleeding, possibility of additional surgery, prolonged recovery, color changes, shape changes, infection, not meeting patient goals and expectations, and added expense to the patient. There may also be a longer recovery due to the length of surgery and anesthesia. Should you experience healing issues, your cutaneous/local flap or skin graft could fail. Wound separation may occur. Should this occur, additional treatment, including surgery, may be necessary. There are nerve endings that may become involved with healing scars from surgery. While there may not be a major nerve injury, the small nerve endings during the healing period may become too active, producing a painful or oversensitive area due to the small sensory nerve involved with scar tissue. Often, massage and early non-surgical intervention resolves this. It is important to discuss postsurgical pain with your surgeon.

### **Damage to Deeper Structures:**

In the process of removal of your tattoo, deeper structures such as nerves and muscles may have to be sacrificed. Reconstruction of your surgical defect could include nerve repair or grafting. Your surgeon will advise you if such a procedure may be required. Further, there is the potential for injury to deeper structures, including nerves, blood vessels, and muscles, during any surgical procedure. The potential for this to occur varies according to the type of procedure being performed. Injury to deeper structures may be temporary or permanent.

### **Firmness:**

Excessive firmness can occur after surgery due to internal scarring. The occurrence of this is not predictable. Additional treatment, including surgery, may be necessary.

### **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.

### **Major Wound Separation:**

Wounds may separate after surgery. Should this occur, additional treatment, including surgery, may be necessary.

**Sutures:**

Most surgical techniques use deep sutures. You may notice these sutures after your surgery. Sutures may spontaneously poke through the skin, become visible, or produce irritation that requires suture removal.

**Delayed Healing:**

Wound disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. Some areas of the skin may not heal normally and may take a long time to heal. Areas of skin may die. This may require frequent dressing changes or further surgery to remove the non-healed tissue. Individuals who have decreased blood supply to tissue from past surgery or radiation therapy may be at increased risk for wound healing and poor surgical outcome. Smokers have a greater risk of skin loss and wound healing complications.

**Fat Necrosis:**

Fatty tissue found deep in the skin might die. This may produce areas of firmness within the skin. Additional surgery to remove areas of fat necrosis may be necessary. There is a possibility of contour irregularities in the skin that may result from fat necrosis.

**Surgical Anesthesia:**

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

**Pain:**

You will experience pain after your surgery. Pain of varying intensity and duration may occur and persist after surgery. If you are a chronic pain patient followed by a pain therapy practitioner, you may be asked to see this practitioner preoperatively to assist you in the management of your pain disorder in the postoperative period. Chronic pain may occur very infrequently from nerves becoming trapped in scar tissue or due to tissue stretching. There are nerve endings that may become involved with healing scars from surgery. While there may not be a major nerve injury, the small nerve endings during the healing period may become too active, producing a painful or oversensitive area due to the small sensory nerve involved with scar tissue. Often, massage and early non-surgical intervention resolves this. It is important to discuss postsurgical pain with your surgeon.

**Allergic Reactions:**

In rare cases, local allergies to tape, suture material and glues, blood products, topical preparations or injected agents have been reported. Serious systemic reactions including shock (anaphylaxis) may occur in response to drugs used during surgery and prescription medicines. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment. It is important to notify your physician of any previous allergic reactions.

**Drug Reactions:**

Unexpected drug allergies, lack of a proper response to medication, or illnesses caused by the prescribed drug are possibilities. It is important for you to inform your physician of any problems you have had with any medication or allergies to prescribed or over-the-counter medication, as well as medications you now regularly take. Provide your surgeon with a list of medications and supplements you are currently taking.

**Persistent Swelling (Lymphedema):**

Persistent swelling can occur following surgery.

**Unsatisfactory Result:**

Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee or warranty expressed or implied on the results that may be obtained. The body is not symmetric and almost everyone has some degree of unevenness, which may not be recognized in advance. One side of the face may be slightly larger, one side of the face droopier. The breast and trunk area exhibit the same possibilities. Many such issues cannot be fully corrected with surgery. The more realistic your expectations as to results, the better your results will appear to you. Some patients never achieve their desired goals or results, at no fault of the surgeon or surgery. You may be disappointed with the results of surgery. Asymmetry, unanticipated shape and size, loss of function, wound disruption, poor healing, and loss of sensation may occur after surgery. Size may be incorrect. Unsatisfactory surgical scar location or appearance may occur. It may be necessary to perform additional surgery to improve your results. Unsatisfactory results may NOT improve with each additional treatment.

## CONSENT for SURGERY/PROCEDURE or TREATMENT

1. I hereby authorize Dr. Samer/Edmond Cabbabe and such assistants as may be selected to perform **TATTOO REMOVAL**

I have received the following information sheet: **TATTOO REMOVAL**.

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 are, 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 understand what my surgeon can and cannot do, and understand there are no warranties or guarantees, implied or specific, about my outcome. I have had the opportunity to explain my goals and understand which desired outcomes are realistic and which are not. All of my questions have been answered, and I understand the inherent (specific) risks to the procedures I seek, as well as those additional risks and complications, benefits, and alternatives. Understanding all of this, I elect to proceed.
5. I consent to be photographed or televised before, during, and after 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 am aware that there are potential significant risks to my health with the utilization of blood products, and I consent to their utilization should they be deemed necessary by my surgeon and/or his/her appointees.
9. I authorize the release of my social security number to appropriate agencies for legal reporting and medical-device registration, if applicable.
10. I understand that the surgeons' fees are separate from the anesthesia and hospital charges, and the fees are agreeable to me. If a secondary procedure is necessary, further expenditure will be required.
11. I realize that not having the operation is an option. I opt out of having this procedure \_\_\_\_\_.
12. IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO ME IN A WAY THAT I UNDERSTAND:
- THE ABOVE TREATMENT OR PROCEDURE TO BE UNDERTAKEN
  - THERE MAY BE ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES OR METHODS OF TREATMENT
  - THERE ARE RISKS TO THE PROCEDURE OR TREATMENT PROPOSED

I CONSENT TO THE TREATMENT OR PROCEDURE AND THE ABOVE LISTED ITEMS (1-12).  
I AM SATISFIED WITH THE EXPLANATION.

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

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