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## INFORMED CONSENT: RESURFACING

### Laser Treatment of Skin

I, \_\_\_\_\_, authorize Dr. Anna Wolyn and / or a licensed designated practitioner of Flagstaff Face & Body to laser resurfacing with the 2940nm Erbium laser on the following area(s) of my body: \_\_\_\_\_

Lasers have been used by physicians for many years. There are many different methods for the surgical use of lasers. Laser energy can be used to cut, vaporize, or selectively remove skin and deeper tissues.

Conditions such as wrinkles, sun damaged skin, scars, and some types of skin lesions/disorders may be treated with the laser. Certain surgical procedures may use the laser as a cutting instrument. In some situations, laser treatments may be performed in combination with other surgical procedures.

Skin treatment programs may be used both before and after laser skin treatments in order to enhance the results.

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### RISKS OF LASER TREATMENT OF SKIN

There are both risks and complications associated with all laser treatment procedures of the skin. Risks involve both items that specifically relate to the use of laser energy as a form of surgical therapy and to the specific procedure performed. An individual's choice to undergo a procedure is based on the comparison of risk to potential benefits. Although the majority of patients do not experience these complications, you should discuss each of them with your physician to make sure you understand the risks, potential complications, and consequences of laser skin treatment.

- **INFECTION** Although infection following laser skin treatment is unusual, bacterial, fungal, and viral infections can occur. Herpes simplex virus infections around the mouth or other areas of the face can occur following a laser treatment. This applies to both individuals with a past history of Herpes simplex virus infections and individuals with no known history of Herpes simplex virus infections in the mouth area. Specific medications may be prescribed and taken both prior to and following the laser treatment procedure in order to suppress an infection from this virus. Should any type of skin infection occur, additional treatment including antibiotics may be necessary.
- **SCARRING** Although normal healing after the procedure is expected, abnormal scars may occur both in the skin and deeper tissues. In rare cases, keloid scars may result. Scars may be unattractive and of different color than the surrounding skin. Additional treatments may be needed to treat scarring.
- **BURNS** Laser energy can produce burns. Adjacent structures including the eyes may be injured or permanently damaged by the laser beam. Burns are rare yet represent the effect of heat produced within the tissues by laser energy. Additional treatment may be necessary to treat laser burns.
- **COLOR CHANGE** Laser treatments may potentially change the natural color of your skin. Skin redness usually lasts 2 weeks to 3 months and occasionally up to 6 months following laser skin treatment. There is the possibility of irregular color variations within the skin including areas that are both lighter and darker. A line of demarcation between normal skin and skin treated with lasers can occur.

- **ACCUTANE (ISOTRETINOIN)** Accutane is a prescription medication used to treat certain skin diseases. This medication may impair the ability of skin to heal following treatments or surgery for a variable amount of time, even after the patient has ceased taking it. Individuals who have taken the medication are advised to allow their skin adequate time to recover from Accutane before undergoing laser skin treatment procedures.
- **FIRE** Inflammable agents, surgical drapes and tubing, hair, and clothing may be ignited by laser energy. Laser energy used in the presence of supplemental oxygen increases the potential hazard of fire. Some anesthetic gases may support combustion.
- **LASER SMOKE (PLUME)** Laser smoke is noxious to those who come in contact with it. This smoke may represent a possible bio hazard.
- **SKIN TISSUE PATHOLOGY** Laser energy directed at skin lesions may potentially vaporize the lesion. Laboratory examination of the tissue specimen may not be possible.
- **VISIBLE SKIN PATTERNS** Laser treatment procedures may produce visible patterns within the skin. The occurrence of this is not predictable.
- **PATIENT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THROUGH** Patient follow through following a laser skin treatment procedure is important. Post-operative instructions concerning appropriate restriction of activity, use of dressings, and use of sun protection need to be followed in order to avoid potential complications, increased pain, and unsatisfactory result. Your physician may recommend that you utilize a long term skin care program to enhance healing following a laser skin treatment.
- **DAMAGED SKIN** Skin that has been previously treated with chemical peels or dermabrasion, or damaged by burns, electrolysis (hair removal treatments), or radiation therapy may heal abnormally or more slowly following treatment by lasers or other surgical techniques. The occurrence of this is not predictable. Additional treatments may be necessary.
- **DISTORTION OF ANATOMIC FEATURES** Laser skin treatments can produce distortion of the appearance of the eyelids, mouth, and other visible anatomic landmarks. The occurrence of this is not predictable. Should this occur, additional treatment, including surgery, may be necessary.
- **UNSATISFACTORY RESULT** There is the possibility of an unsatisfactory result from these procedures. Laser procedures may result in unacceptable visible deformities, skin slough, loss of function, and permanent color changes in the skin. You may be disappointed with the final result from laser treatments.
- **PAIN** Very infrequently, chronic pain may occur after laser skin treatment procedures.
- **ALLERGIC REACTIONS** In rare cases, local allergies to tape, preservatives used in cosmetics or topical preparations have been reported. Systemic reactions which are more serious may result from drugs used during medical procedures and prescription medicines. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.
- **LACK OF PERMANENT RESULTS** Laser or other treatments may not completely improve or prevent future skin disorders, lesions, or wrinkles. Additional procedures or surgery may be necessary to further tighten loose skin.
- **DELAYED HEALING** It may take longer than anticipated for healing to occur after laser treatments. Slower than normal skin healing may result in thin, easily injured skin. This is different from the normal redness in skin after a laser treatment.
- **UNKNOWN RISKS** There is the possibility that additional risk factors of laser skin treatments may be discovered.
- **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 and sedation.

- **ADDITIONAL TREATMENT OR SURGERY NECESSARY** There are many variable conditions which influence the long term result of laser skin treatments. Even though risks and complications occur infrequently, the risks cited are the ones that are particularly associated with these procedures. Other complications and risks can occur but are even more uncommon. Should complications occur, procedures, 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.

1. I hereby authorize Dr. Anna Wolyn, M.D. and such assistants as may be selected, to perform the following procedure or treatment: \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I recognize that during the course of the procedure 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 acknowledge that no guarantee has been given by anyone as to the results that may be obtained.
5. For purposes of advancing medical education, I consent to the admittance of observers to the operating room.
6. I consent to the disposal of any tissue, medical devices, or body parts which may be removed.
7. I authorize the release of my Social Security number to appropriate agencies for legal reporting and medical device registration, if applicable.
8. **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

## PHOTOGRAPHY

I do\_\_\_\_ or do not \_\_\_\_\_ consent to photographs and other audio-visual and graphic materials before, during, and after the course of my therapy to be used for medical, marketing, and education purposes. Although the photographs or accompanying material will not contain my name or any other identifying information, I am aware that I may or may not be identified by the photos.

I have read and understand all information presented to me before signing this consent form. I have been given an opportunity to have all of my questions answered to my satisfaction. I understand the procedure and accept the risks. I agree to the terms of this agreement.

Patient's Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_