

INFORMED CONSENT FOR
SKIN LESION AND SOFT TISSUE MASS REMOVAL

WITH PATHOLOGY EVALUATION
 WITHOUT PATHOLOGY EVALUATION

PLEASE REVIEW AND BRING WITH YOU ON THE DAY OF YOUR PROCEDURE

PATIENT NAME _____



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Patient Initials _____

INSTRUCTIONS

This is an informed-consent document that has been prepared to help inform you about skin lesion and under the skin lesion/mass removal, its risks, and alternative treatments.

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

The removal of lesions is a common procedure and may be done for cosmetic or for medical purposes. In cases where the lesion is concerning for possible medical conditions such as cancer, a pathology evaluation may be done (examination under a microscope by a pathology physician).

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT

Alternative forms of non-surgical management consist of not undergoing lesion removal, laser treatments, or other non-surgical techniques. In some cases, non-surgical techniques may not be appropriate.

RISKS of SURGERY for SKIN LESION & SOFT TISSUE MASS REMOVAL

Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk and it is important that you understand the risks involved with lesion and mass removal. An individual's choice to undergo a surgical procedure is based on the comparison of the risks and potential benefits. Though the majority of patients do not experience complications, you should discuss each of them with your plastic surgeon to make sure you understand the risks, potential complications, and consequences of lesion and mass removal.

Bleeding- It is possible, though unusual, to experience a bleeding episode during or after surgery. Should bleeding occur, it may require emergency treatment to stop, drain accumulated blood or blood transfusion. Do not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for ten days before surgery, as this may increase the risk of bleeding. Non-prescription "herbs" and dietary supplements can increase the risk of surgical bleeding, and should also be stopped (See "Medications To Avoid").

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

Change in skin sensation- This usually resolves in 3 to 4 weeks. Permanently decreased sensation is rare, but possible.

Skin scarring- Although good wound healing after a surgical procedure is expected, abnormal scars may occur both within the skin and the deeper tissues. Excessive scarring is uncommon. Additional treatments including surgery may be necessary to treat abnormal scarring.

Seroma- Fluid may accumulate in the space where the lesion was located. Additional treatment or surgery may be necessary to remove this fluid.

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. It is even possible to have loss of skin. This may require frequent dressing changes or further surgery to remove the non-healed tissue.

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

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

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/or prescription medications. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.

Lesion recurrence – Although unlikely, it is possible that the lesion may return and require more treatment.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Most health insurance companies exclude coverage for cosmetic surgical operations such lesion removal and any complications that might occur from surgery. Please carefully review your health insurance subscriber information pamphlet and underwriting policies.

ADDITIONAL SURGERY

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 implants and surgical supplies, anesthesia, laboratory tests, 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 or hospital day-surgery charges involved with revisionary surgery would also be your responsibility.

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 OR TREATMENT

1. I hereby authorize Dr. Karol Gutowski and/or Dr. Andrea Martin and such assistants as may be selected to perform the following procedure or treatment:

Skin Lesion and Mass Excision

I have received the following information sheet:

INFORMED CONSENT FOR SKIN LESION AND MASS EXCISION

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(s) 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(s) 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 involves 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 videoing 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 which may be removed.
8. I authorize the release of my Social Security 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.

Patient or Person Authorized to Sign for Patient

Date _____ Witness _____

AUTHORIZATION & CONSENT FOR RELEASE OF MEDICAL IMAGES

It is important that you read this information carefully and completely. After reviewing, please sign the consent as proposed by Dr. Gutowski, Dr Martin, or their representatives.

INTRODUCTION

Medical images (photographs, slides, videos, interviews or any other images of you, or components of your medical record) may be taken before, during, or after a surgical procedure or treatment. These images may be needed to document your medical condition, used as supporting material for authorizing medical coverage and payments, and treatment planning. Consent is required to take, use and release such images. Since Dr. Gutowski and Dr Martin also are educators of other physicians, researchers, and medical writers, your images may be used for other purposes as described below.

1. CONSENT TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS, SLIDES, DIGITAL IMAGES, AND VIDEOGRAPHY

I hereby authorize Dr. Gutowski and Dr Martin and/or their associates to take any images and videos before, during and after my treatments or surgeries.

2. CONSENT FOR RELEASE OF PHOTOGRAPHS/SLIDES/VIDEOGRAPHY

I hereby authorize Dr. Gutowski and Dr Martin and/or their associates to use any of these images for professional medical purposes deemed appropriate including but not limited to showing these images on public or commercial television, electronic digital networks including the internet, print or visual or broadcast media, for purposes of examination, testing, credentialing and/or certifying purposes for purposes of medical education, patient education, lay publication, or during lectures to medical or lay groups, for marketing and advertising, and for use in supporting documentation for insurance or third-party payer purposes, medical teaching, research or dissemination of medical information to medical and nonmedical audiences, including, but not limited to, journal or book publications, presentations, conferences, and print marketing material (magazine, newspaper, etc) or electronic media (television, internet, etc).

3. CONSENT FOR RELEASE TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

I further authorize Dr. Gutowski and Dr Martin or to release to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS), and the American Board of Plastic Surgery (ABPS) such images. I provide this authorization as a voluntary contribution in the interests of public education. The images may be used for publication in print, visual or electronic media, specifically including, but not limited to, medical journals (such as *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*, *Annals of Plastic Surgery*, *Aesthetic Plastic Surgery*), textbooks, lay publications, patient education or during lectures for the purpose of informing the medical profession or the general public about plastic surgery methods, medical education or examination material by ASPS, ASAPS, and ABPS. I understand that such images shall become the property of ASPS, ASAPS, and ABPS, and may be retained or released by these organizations for the limited purpose mentioned above. I also grant permission for the use of any of my medical records, including illustrations, photographs, video or other imaging records created in my case, for use in examination, certifying and/or re-certifying purposes by ABPS.

I understand that I will not be identified by name in any release of these materials but in some cases the images may contain features that may make my identity recognizable. I release and discharge Dr. Gutowski and Dr Martin and all parties acting on his/her authority from all rights that I may have in these images, and from any claims that I have related their use in the above mentioned manner.

I also release Dr. Gutowski and Dr Martin and any employees or agents from all liability, including any claims of libel or invasion or privacy, directly or indirectly connected with, arising out of or resulting from the taking and authorized use of these images or recorded interviews.

I understand that I have the right to request cessation of recording or filming at any time.

I understand that I will not be entitled to monetary payment or any other consideration as a result of any use of these images and /or my interview.

Patient Name _____

Patient Signature _____ Date _____

Witness or Guardian/Parent _____ Date _____