

## INFORMED CONSENT-FACELIFT SURGERY (RHYTIDECTOMY)

**GENERAL INFORMATION-** Facelift, or Rhytidectomy, is a surgical procedure to improve visible signs of aging on the face and neck. As individuals age, the skin and muscles of the face region begin to lose tone. The facelift cannot stop the process of aging. It can improve the most visible signs of aging by tightening deeper structures, re-draping the skin of the face and neck, and removing selected areas of fat. A facelift can be performed alone, or in conjunction with other procedure, such as a browlift, liposuction, eyelid surgery, or nasal surgery.

**ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS-** Alternative forms of management consist of not treating the laxness in the face and neck region with a facelift. Improvement of skin laxity, skin wrinkles and fatty deposits may be attempted by other treatments or surgery such as laser resurfacing, or liposuction. Risks and potential complications are also associated with alternative surgical forms of treatment.

### SPECIFIC RISKS OF FACELIFT SURGERY

**HAIR LOSS:** Hair loss may occur in areas of the face where the skin was elevated during surgery. The occurrence of this is not predictable.

**NERVE INJURY:** Motor and sensory nerves may be injured during a facelift operation. Weakness or loss of facial movements may occur after facelift surgery. Nerve injuries may cause temporary or permanent loss of facial movements and feeling. Such injuries may improve over time. Injury to sensory nerves of the face, neck and ear regions may cause temporary or more rarely permanent numbness. Painful nerve scarring is very rare.

**ASYMMETRY:** One side could easily be slightly smoother or tighter than the other side. If obvious, additional revisions may be necessary.

**RECURRENCE OF LAXITY:** A facelift is designed to turn the clock back in terms of your appearances. It will not prevent continued aging and its effects on your appearances. Skin laxity will occur over time but you will always be rejuvenated if you could compare yourself to yourself prior to having had this procedure.