

Informed Consent – Skin Resurfacing

General Information – Resurfacing is used to rejuvenate skin and clear the surface of mild irregularities, wrinkles and excesses, and sun damaged skin. The anticipated result would be a more youthful appearing and healthier skin. This involves removing the outer surfaces with lasers or chemical peels or heating up the skin to stimulate collagen development with Portrait technology. This does not produce any permanent result (except for complications) but does “turn back the clock” though your skin will continue to age from that point forward. Best results are maintained by initiation of a home skin care regimen using products such as Retin-A or Alpha Hydroxy Acid products. *It may be necessary for multiple treatments to achieve a satisfactory result and I accept the potential need for additional interventions and allow my consent signed today to be effective for the duration of treatments required in my situation.*

Alternative Treatments – Alternatives to skin resurfacing include home care regimens using topical agents regularly, dermabrasion, other surgical procedures such as facelifts and blepharoplasties, and having no procedure at all.

Specific Risks Inherent to Resurfacing

Pain and Discomfort – The level of pain and discomfort vary with an individual’s level of tolerance, the amount of area being treated, and the efficacy of the local/topical anesthetics. I do consent to the use of anesthetics as needed and appropriate.

Swelling and Bruising – Following the procedure, there may be swelling and bruising. This is temporary and will subside. Use of cool compresses following the procedure can be helpful in diminishing this risk.

Delayed Healing – Your skin may experience delayed healing, usually as a result of a superficial infection or deeper penetration of the energy used. The skin will be pink for longer periods of time with more ablative techniques such as traditional CO2 lasers. You should avoid sun exposure until this pinkness has resolved.

Scarring – Though rare, scarring can occur and be visible or create functional problems such as an ectropion (pulling of the lower eyelid downwards). The quality of scarring is often related to the patient’s genetic makeup. To minimize this risk, you must follow the post-procedure instructions and notify the doctor if any problem (such as infection) or concern develops.

Skin Color Change – Treated areas can heal with variances in color. Often a transient darkening may initially occur but long term, a permanent lightening is anticipated. This is less likely to occur with the Portrait or Fractional Laser Technology.

Recurrence of Lesion/Wrinkle – Some skin conditions may be affected partially or not at all by the laser/Portrait resulting in the need for additional treatments.

Infection – Any invasive procedure can result in a risk of infection and may require treatment with antibiotics. Untreated infections will lead to scarring.