



# Renaissance Clinique

*Beauty through Art, Science & Technology*

## **INFORMED CONSENT- LASER BASED TREATMENT PROCEDURES**

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

This is an informed consent document which has been prepared to help inform you about laser treatment procedures of the skin, risks, and alternative treatments. It is important that you read this information carefully and completely.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Lasers have been used by doctors 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, tattoos, unsightly veins, acne 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, another laser treatment may be performed at the time of other procedures.

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

### **ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT**

Alternative forms of treatment include not undergoing the proposed laser skin treatment procedure. Other forms of skin treatment (chemical peel) or surgical procedures (dermabrasion or excisional surgery) may be substituted. In certain situations, the laser may offer a specific therapeutic advantage over other forms of treatment. Alternatively laser treatment procedures in some situations may not represent a better alternative to other forms of surgery or skin treatment when indicated. Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative forms of treatment that involve skin treatments or surgical procedures.

### **RISKS OF LASER BASED TREATMENT**

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 us 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.



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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 1 month and occasionally more 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 drug 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 drug 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 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 doctor/technician 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



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slowly following treatment by lasers or other surgical techniques. The occurrence of this is not predictable.

Unsatisfactory Result - There is the possibility of an unsatisfactory result from these procedures.

Pain - Infrequently 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. Skin healing may result in thin, easily injured skin.

Unknown Risks - There is the possibility that additional risk factors of laser skin treatments may be discovered.

Additional Treatment 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. Although good results are expected there is no guarantee or warranty expressed or implied on the results that may be obtained.

It is important that you read the above information carefully and have all of your questions answered before signing the CONSENT FOR LASER BASED TREATMENT.

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