

# Kaiser Permanente Cosmetic Services

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## INFORMED-CONSENT- COSMETIC SKIN LESION/ SKIN TUMOR REMOVAL

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

This is an informed-consent document that has been prepared to help your surgeon to inform you concerning skin-lesion/skin-tumor surgery(s), its risks, and alternative treatment.

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 surgeon.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The surgical removal of skin lesions and tumors is frequently performed by plastic surgeons. Certain skin lesions and skin tumors will disappear spontaneously; surgical removal is a treatment option. There are many different techniques for removing skin lesions and skin tumors. Your doctor will discuss the various surgical procedures involved in the removal of skin lesion(s) or skin tumor(s).

### **ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS**

Alternative forms of management consist of not treating the skin lesion/skin tumor condition. Removal of skin lesions and skin tumors may be accomplished by other treatments including the use of liquid nitrogen (freezing), lasers, topical medications, and electric cautery.

Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative forms of treatment.

### **RISKS OF SKIN LESION/SKIN TUMOR SURGERY**

Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk, and it is important that you understand the risks involved. An individual's choice to undergo a surgical procedure is based on the comparison of the risk to potential benefit. Although the majority of patients do not experience these complications, you should discuss each of them with your plastic surgeon to make sure you understand the risks, potential complications, and consequences of the surgical excision of skin lesions or skin tumors.

**Bleeding**- It is possible, though unusual, that you can have excessive bleeding during or after surgery. Should post-operative bleeding occur, it may require emergency treatment to drain accumulated blood or require a blood transfusion. Do not take any aspirin for 14 days or anti-inflammatory medications for 4 days before surgery, as this may contribute to a greater risk of bleeding. Non-prescription "herbs" and dietary supplements can increase the risk of surgical bleeding.

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

**Scarring** – All surgery leaves scars, some more visible than others. Although good wound healing after a surgical procedure is expected, abnormal scars may occur both within the skin and the deeper tissues. Scars may be unattractive and of different color than the surrounding skin. There is the possibility of visible marks from sutures used to close the wound after the removal of skin lesions and tumors. Additional treatments including surgery may be needed to treat scarring.

**Damage to deeper structures** – Deeper structures such as nerves, blood vessels and muscles may be damaged during the course of surgery. The potential for this to occur varies according to where on the body surgery is being performed. Injury to deeper structures may be temporary or permanent.

**Cancer** – in some situations that a skin lesion or tumor that appears to be benign may be determined to be cancerous after analysis by a pathologist. Additional treatments or surgery may be necessary.

**Recurrence** – in rare situations, skin lesions and tumors can recur after surgical excision. Additional treatment or secondary surgery may be necessary.

**Unsatisfactory result** – There is the possibility of a poor result from the removal of skin lesions and tumors. Surgery may result in unacceptable visible deformities, loss of function, wound disruption, skin death and loss of sensation. You may be disappointed with the results of surgery.

**Delayed healing**- Wound disruption or delayed 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 a loss of skin or deeper tissue. 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.**

**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 prescription medicines. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.

**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 or sedation.

### **ADDITIONAL SURGERY NECESSARY**

Should complications occur, additional surgery or other treatments may be necessary. Even though risks and complications occur infrequently, the risks cited are the ones that are particularly associated with skin lesion and skin tumor removal. Other complications and risks can occur but are even more uncommon. The practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science. Although good results are expected, there cannot be any 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 for the procedure, the cost of surgical supplies, anesthesia, laboratory tests, medications covered by your health plan. You will be responsible for necessary co-payments, deductibles, and charges not covered by your health plan. Additional costs may occur should complications develop from the surgery. If the complication is felt to be a health risk, for example an infection or hematoma, treatments required including hospitalization, anaesthesia and/or secondary surgery would be covered under your health plan coverage. In the event of a cosmetic complication requiring additional surgery, anaesthesia fees or hospital day-surgery charges involved with revision cosmetic surgery would also be your responsibility.

### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

Services described here are provided on a fee-for-service basis, separate from and not covered under your Health Plan benefits. Clinical services are provided by providers or contractors of the Permanente Medical Groups. The Permanente Medical Groups, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals have a financial interest in the provision of these services. For specific information about your Health Plan benefits please see your *Evidence of Coverage*.

### **DISCLAIMER**

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 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 pattern 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.**