**INFORMED CONSENT-FACELIFT(RHYTIDECTOMY) SURGERY**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

This is an informed-consent document that has been prepared to help inform you concerning facelift surgery, its risks, as well as 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 Dr. Richard Cashio MD.

**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, redraping the skin of the face and neck, and removing selected areas of fat. A facelift can be performed alone or in conjunction with other procedures, such as brow lift, liposuction, eyelid surgery or nasal surgery.

Facelift surgery is individualized for each patient. The best candidates for facelift surgery have a face and neck line beginning to sag, but whose skin has elasticity and whole bone structure is well defined.

**ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS**

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

**RISKS OF FACELIFT SURGERY:**

**Bleeding** – It is possible, though unusual, to have a bleeding episode during or after surgery. Bleeding may occur under the skin. Should you develop post-operative bleeding, it may require emergency treatment or surgery. Do not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for ten days before surgery, as this may contribute to a greater risk of a bleeding problem. Also, some herbal supplements such as garlic, ginkgo biloba, omega 3 fatty acids, and others may also increase bleeding and should be discontinued as well. Hypertension (high blood pressure) that is not under good medical control may cause bleeding during or after surgery. Accumulations of blood under the skin may delay healing and cause scarring.

**Infection** – Infection is very rare after surgery. Should an infection occur, additional treatment including antibiotics may be necessary.

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**RISKS OF FACELIFT SURGERY CONT’D**

**Damage to deeper structures** - Deeper structures such as nerves, blood vessels, and eye muscles may be damage during the course of surgery. The potential for this to occur varies with the type of facelift procedure performed. Injury to deeper structures may be temporary or permanent.

**Skin Discoloration/Swelling**-Some bruising and swelling normally occurs following a facelift. The skin in or near the surgical site can appear either lighter or darker than surrounding skin. Although uncommon, swelling and skin discoloration may persist for long periods of time, and in rare situations, may be permanent.

**Sutures**-Most surgical techniques use deep sutures. You may notice these sutures after your surgery. Sutures may spontaneously poke through the skin, become visible or produce irritation that requires removal.

**Fat Necrosis**-Fatty tissue found deep in the skin might die. This may produce areas of firmness within the skin. Additional surgery to remove areas of fat necrosis may be necessary. There is a possibility of contour irregularities in the skin that may result from fat necrosis.

**Unsatisfactory Result**-Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee or warranty expressed or implied, on the results that may be obtained. You may be disappointed with the results of facelift surgery. This would include risks such as asymmetry, unsatisfactory surgical scar location, unacceptable visible deformities at the ends of the incisions (dog ears), loss of facial movement, poor wound healing, wound disruption, and loss of sensation. It may be necessary to perform additional surgery or improve your results.

**Delayed healing**-Wound disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. Some areas of the face may not heal normally and may take a long time to heal. Areas of skin may die. 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.**

**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.

**Asymmetry-** The human face is normally asymmetrical. There can be a variation for one side to the other in the results obtained from a facelift procedure. Additional surgery may be necessary to attempt to revise asymmetry.

**Allergic Reactions**-In rare cases, local allergies to tape, suture materials and glues, blood products, topical preparations or injected agents have been reported. Serious systemic reactions including shock (anaphylaxis) may occur to drugs used during surgery and prescription medications. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.

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**RISKS OF FACELIFT SURGERY CONT’D**

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

**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, although possible, is very rare.

**Seroma**-Fluid accumulations infrequently occur in between the skin and the underlying tissues. Should this occur, it may require additional procedures for drainage of fluid.

**Shock**-In rare circumstances, your surgical procedure can cause severe trauma, particularly when multiple or extensive procedures are performed. Although serious complications are infrequent, infections or excessive fluid loss can lead to severe illness and even death. If surgical shock occurs, hospitalization and additional treatment would be necessary.

**Pain**-You will experience pain after your surgery. Pain of varying intensity and duration may occur and persist after facelift surgery. Chronic pain may occur very infrequently from nerves becoming entrapped in scar tissue after a facelift.

**Cardiac and Pulmonary Complications**-Surgery, especially longer procedures, may be associated with the formation of, or increase in, blood clots in the venous system. Pulmonary complications may occur secondarily to both blood clots pulmonary emboli, fat deposits or partial collapse of the lungs after general anesthesia. Pulmonary and fat emboli can be life threatening or fatal in some circumstances. Air travel, inactivity and other conditions may increase the incidence of blood clots traveling to your longs causing a major blood clot that may result in death. It is important to discuss with Dr. Cashio any history of blood clots or swollen legs that may contribute to this condition. Cardiac complications are a risk with any surgery and anesthesia, even in patients without symptoms. If you experience shortness of breath, chest pains, or unusual heart beats, seek medical attention immediately. Should any of the complications occur, you may require hospitalization and additional treatment.

**Scaring** – Although good wound healing after a surgical procedure is expected, abnormal scars may occur both superficially and within deeper tissues. In rare cases, abnormal scars may result. Scars may be unattractive and of a different color than surrounding skin. There is the possibility of noticeable marks or small skin cysts from sutures that may be temporary or permanent.

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**RISKS OF FACELIFT SURGERY CONT’D**

**SMOKING, SECOND-HAND SMOKE EXPOSURE, NICOTINE PRODUCTS (PATCH, GUM, NASAL SPRAY,etc.)**Patients who currently smoke, use tobacco products, or nicotine products (patch, gum, nasal spray, etc.) are at a greater risk for significant surgical complications of skin dying, delayed healing and additional scarring. Individuals exposed to second-hand smoke are also at potential risk for similar complications attributable to nicotine exposure. Additionally, smoking may have a significant negative effect on anesthesia and recovery from anesthesia, with coughing and possibly increased bleeding. Individuals who are not exposed to tobacco smoke or nicotine-containing products have a significantly lower risk of this type of complication. Please indicate your current status regarding these items below:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I am a non-smoker and do not use nicotine products. I understand the risk of second-hand smoke exposure causing surgical complications.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I am a smoker or use tobacco/nicotine products. I understand the risk of surgical complications due to smoking or use of nicotine products. It is important to refrain from smoking at least 4-6 weeks before surgery and until Dr. Cashio states it is safe to return, if desired.

**RISKS SPECIFIC TO YOUR SURGERY:**

(These are unique risks specific to your condition but should not be considered an all-inclusive list.)

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**INFORMED CONSENT-FACELIFT(RHYTIDECTOMY) SURGERY**

1. I hereby authorize Dr. Richard V. Cashio Jr., M.D. and such assistants as may be selected to perform the following procedure or treatment:

**Facelift Surgery (Rhytidectomy)**

and I have received the following information sheet: **Informed Consent Facelift Surgery.**

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 and assistants or designees to perform such other procedures that are in the exercise of his or her professional judgement necessary and desirable. The authority granted under this paragraph shall include all conditions that require treatment and are not known to my physician 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 televising 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 AND ALL OF MY QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED TO MY SATISFACTION**.

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Patient or Person Authorized to Sign for Patient Date

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Witness Date