

This is an informed consent that has been prepared to ensure that you understand Concept™ Facelift surgery, its intended benefits, risks and alternatives to treatment.

A facelift or rhytidectomy is a surgical procedure designed to improve visible signs of aging on the face and neck. As people age, the skin and muscles of the face begin to lose tone. A facelift cannot halt the ageing process however it can improve the most visible signs of ageing by tightening deeper structures, redraping the skin of the face and neck and removing selected areas of fat. There is less dissection involved than a traditional full scar facelift and so it can be safely performed under local anaesthesia. A facelift can be performed alone or in conjunction with other procedures such as a neck lift, liposuction or eyelid surgery (Blepharoplasty)

Alternative forms of management consist of not treating the laxness in the face and neck region with a facelift. Improvements of skin and wrinkles appearance may be attempted by other non surgical treatments such as injectables or chemical peels.

Prior to the procedure, your surgeon will mark out the excess tissue that needs to be removed in order to give you the look you desire. Local anaesthetic will then be injected with a number of injections to make the area go numb. This should be the only part of the procedure that can cause any discomfort. Once the area is numb, your surgeon will remove excess the skin and tighten the underlying structures. The operation itself takes around 2 hours.

After the procedure, your face will appear swollen and in some instances bruising will appear. It is expected that swelling and bruising will subside after 5-7 days. The initial healing period will vary from person to person although most patients will feel comfortable to resume normal activities within a week or so. Initially, the scars may look red and slightly raised although these will fade and lighten over time. All associated after care instructions will be provided on a separate information sheet.

As with any surgical procedure it is important that you understand the potential risks and complications

## **Scarring**

Scars will result from surgery and I understand their intended location. Additional scarring can result from poor or decreased wound healing ability. Most scars are barely noticeable although full wound maturation can take up to 12 months. Poor scarring can be treated with a series of steroid injections or the use of silicone sheeting.

## **Bleeding**

A collection of blood around the site of surgery is called a haematoma. Small haematomas are common and usually resolve quickly without any need for additional treatment. If a haematoma is large however it may be necessary to undo some of the stitches and wash out the blood clot in order to optimise the final outcome. As post operative bleeding can delay normal healing and recovery. I understand that every effort is taken to minimise bleeding during surgery.

## **Swelling**

Bruising and swelling will result as a consequence of surgery which will settle within the first week of surgery. I understand that my face will be puffy and swollen for the first few days post surgery and this has been explained to me.

## **Infection**

Any surgical procedure involves a risk of infection and this has been explained to me. Infection following surgery is uncommon however it is important to follow all postoperative wound care instructions to prevent infection occurring. I understand that all measures will be taken to minimise this risk and that I may require preventative oral antibiotics. I also understand that if an infection was more serious then it may require transfer to a hospital in order to receive intravenous antibiotics

## **Wound Breakdown**

Occasionally wounds as a result of surgery can be slow to heal or breakdown as a result of infection, poor nutrition or poor blood supply. It is important that you tell your surgeon if you smoke or have any history of poor wound healing or scarring.

## **Asymmetry**

It is impossible for any surgeon to achieve perfect symmetry although every effort will be made to restore symmetry. It is important to understand that the human face is normally asymmetrical, therefore perfect symmetry as a result of a facelift is not always achievable. In some cases further adjustments are required to achieve the desired look.

## **Under or Over Correction**

Occasionally further adjustment surgery is necessary if under or over correction has occurred. Every effort is made to ensure that under or over correction does not occur however this cannot be guaranteed.

## **Numbness**

In the areas where the skin has been lifted off the face the skin will remain numb for some time after the operation. These can take anything from 3-6 months to recover and in some instances normal sensation may never return.

## **Damage to the facial nerve**

This is an uncommon complication of any facelift and is more likely in a full scar facelift as the dissection is more extensive. However under local anaesthetic, the nerves will be paralysed temporarily for the duration of the procedure and may last a few hours as they start to recover. In many cases facial nerve injury is a partial injury and will resolve and recover overtime. Very rarely nerve damage can be permanent

## **Ear Pain**

Following the procedure most people experience some mild discomfort. This can be managed with mild painkillers like paracetamol. However around 5% of patients experience ear pain which may require stronger painkillers. Ear pain usually only lasts around two weeks.

## **Seroma**

A seroma is a build-up of fluid under the skin and is normally a straw coloured fluid. Most seromas resolve and the body reabsorbs the fluid however rarely seromas need draining. This is a straightforward procedure which is carried out by one of the surgical team if required.

### Pixie ear deformity

As the scars heal they pull on the earlobes, creating a “pixie” appearance to the ear. This is a rare complication however if it does occur then it would require surgical correction if after scar maturation there was no significant improvement.

Additional risks identified to your individual case

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I confirm that I have read, understood and have taken time to consider all of the identified risks as described above, I have also had the opportunity to discuss any additional concerns and questions with my surgeon. I have decided to proceed with the Concept™ Facelift surgery with full knowledge of the risks and intended benefits involved. I certify that I have fully informed my surgeon correctly and to the best of my knowledge of my full medical history and status.

I understand that withholding medical information could lead to complications or problems that may have been prevented if that information were known prior to my surgery.

PRINT NAME (PATIENT)	SIGNED (PATIENT)
PRINT NAME (CLINICIAN)	SIGNED (CLINICIAN)
	DATE