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INFORMED CONSENT FOR VASCULAR LASER

This form is designed to give you the information you need to make an informed choice on whether or not to undergo vascular lesion laser surgery. If you have any questions, please ask.

Although laser surgery is effective in most cases, no guarantees can be made that a specific patient will benefit from treatment. Many conditions treated with this laser require a series of treatments to reach the desired level of improvement. These treatments may range from one treatment to as many as six or more, depending on the type of lesion being treated. Some conditions will not completely clear, but will become lighter. Some pigmented lesions may not respond at all to this treatment.

What is Vascular Lesion Surgery?

The vascular lesion laser has been used for treatment of various skin conditions for over five years. It emits an intense beam of light that penetrates the skin to a depth of about 1.5 mm (1/20th of an inch). This heats the targeted superficial blood vessels almost instantaneously, and so precisely, that normal surrounding tissue is hardly affected. This laser is used to lighten or remove birthmarks, port-wine stains, facial telangiectasias (prominent blood vessels, often called spider veins), and other vascular growths of the skin.

What are the most common side effects and possible complications of laser surgery?

1. **Pain.** Some people feel pain during treatment. The discomfort may range from moderate to minimal, but fortunately, is of short duration. A local anesthetic may be used to block pain during the treatment. Most adults and older children can tolerate the discomfort without anesthesia. Younger children may need to undergo intravenous sedation.
2. **Healing Wound.** Occasionally there is a crust, blister, or superficial wound that requires care. When these occur, they tend to heal on their own in two to three weeks.
3. **Pigment Changes.** The treated area may heal with increased pigmentation (hyperpigmentation). This occurs most often in darker pigmented skin and following exposure of the area to the sun. Some patients have a predisposition to this type of reaction and may have noticed it with minor cuts, abrasions, or acne lesions. It is advised to protect the treated area from exposure to the sun for three months following treatment to minimize the chances of hyperpigmentation. In some patients, hyperpigmentation occurs even though the area has been protected from the sun. Hyperpigmentation spots usually fade away in three to six months; rarely, however, the pigment change is permanent. Some patients may notice a decrease in skin color (hypopigmentation) in the treated area after repeated treatment to the same area. As with hyperpigmentation, hypopigmented spots usually repigment in three to six months, but the pigment change may be permanent.
4. **Redness.** Laser treatment will cause a slight redness at the treated area. This can last up to 24 hours.

5. **Excessive Swelling.** Immediately after laser surgery, there may be swelling of the skin, especially when the cheek or nose has been treated. This is a temporary condition and not harmful in itself, but may be frightening. This swelling usually subsides in three to seven days and requires frequent application of ice for treatment.
6. **Fragile Skin.** The skin at or near the treatment site may become fragile. The area should not be rubbed, since this may cause tearing of the skin. Makeup should not be applied to or removed from the treated area while the skin is fragile.
7. **Scarring.** There is a very small chance of scarring, including hypertrophic scars, which are enlarged scars, and, very rarely, keloid scars, which are abnormal, heavy, raised scar formation. Scarring is a very rare occurrence, but it is a possibility when there is a disruption of the skin's surface. To minimize the chances of scarring, it is important that you follow all postoperative instructions carefully.
8. **Persistence of Lesion.** Some growths or birthmarks may respond only partially or not at all. There can be no guarantee of results obtainable with this therapy.

What are the possible complications if I do not have this laser procedure?

Most skin conditions amenable to laser treatment are cosmetic in nature and pose no medical threat if they are not treated. Port-wine stains that are not treated may become darker and more nodular with age. Some other blood vessel growths of the skin may tend to enlarge or spread with time if not treated.

Area to be treated by Vascular laser procedure:

I understand and agree that all services rendered will be charged directly to me, and I am personally responsible for payment, to bear the cost of collection, and/or court costs and reasonable legal fees, should be required.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the foregoing Photo Peel informed consent and that I feel the doctor or nurse has adequately informed me of the risks of this laser procedure, alternative methods of treatment, and the risks of not treating any condition, and I hereby consent to a laser procedure to be performed by the doctor or nurse.

I consent to the taking of photographs before, during, and after the procedure. These photographs will belong to the doctor and may be used for scientific purposes, including lecture presentation or publication in medical or scientific texts and periodicals. They may also be shown to prospective patients or other medical groups. They will not be used for advertising.

Patient Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____