



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
PLASTIC SURGEONS®

# Informed Consent

## Chemical Skin Peels and Treatments

**INSTRUCTIONS**

This is an informed consent document to help you learn about chemical skin peels. It will outline the risks and other treatments.

It is important that you read the whole document carefully. Please initial each page. Doing so means you have read the page. Signing the consent agreement means that you agree to the surgery that you have talked about with your plastic surgeon.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Chemical skin peels and other skin treatments have been used for many years to treat a variety of skin disorders. Issues such as sun damage, wrinkling, and uneven coloring may be treated with these non-invasive methods. There are many ways to use chemical peels and skin treatment medications. In some cases, chemical peels may be done at the same time as other procedures like surgery.

Chemical skin peels and other skin treatments will not give the same results as skin tightening surgery.

**OTHER TREATMENTS**

There are other ways to smooth or tighten your skin that don't involve chemical peels or other medications. If you want to change the look of your skin, tighten it, or reduce wrinkles, you may go in for other treatments. These treatments include skin resurfacing, laser treatment, or surgery. All forms of treatment have their own risks and problems.

**RISKS OF CHEMICAL SKIN PEELS AND TREATMENTS**

Every medical procedure has risks. It is important that you understand the risks and the possible problems that can result from them. All procedures have limits. Choosing to have this procedure means comparing the risks and benefits. Most patients do not face the issues you'll learn about, but you must talk about them with your plastic surgeon. Make sure you understand the risks and possible outcomes of chemical skin peels and skin treatment procedures.

**SPECIFIC RISKS OF CHEMICAL SKIN PEELS AND TREATMENTS****Infection:**

Although it is rare, you may get a bacterial, fungal, or viral infection after a skin peel. Herpes simplex virus infections can develop near the mouth after treatment. This may happen to both individuals with a history of herpes simplex virus infections and those with no known history of it. Prescribed medicine must be taken both before and after treatment to prevent infection from this virus. Should you get any type of skin infection, you may need more treatment including antibiotics, hospitalization, or surgery. It is important to tell your doctor about any infections or wounds you might have, even if they're minor. These can be ingrown toenails, insect bites, or urinary infections. Infections in other parts of your body could lead to an infection in the area that is treated.

**Scars:**

In most cases, you can expect to heal well after surgery. However, you may develop scars. In rare cases, these might be raised (keloids). Scars may look bad and may be a different color than the rest of the skin. You may need treatment with medication, lasers, or surgery to fix this. Although it is rare, some scars may be permanent.

**Color Change:**

Chemical peel agents can permanently lighten the natural color of your skin. It's also possible that you may have both lighter and darker patches. In some cases, a patient's skin may become permanently darker after a chemical peel. You may see a line between normal skin and skin that has been treated. You may have redness after a chemical peel. This might be visible for a long time after treatment.

**Accutane® (Isotretinoin):**

Accutane® is a prescription medication used to treat some skin diseases. If you have ever taken Accutane®, you should tell your surgeon. This drug may make it harder for your skin to heal after a chemical peel. It's hard to know for how long you might have trouble healing, even after you stop taking this medicine. If you've taken this drug, give your skin time to recover before trying any skin treatment procedures.

**Allergic Reactions:**

In rare cases, you may be allergic to the drugs and chemicals used for chemical peels and other skin treatments. You may also be allergic to tape, suture materials and glues, blood products, topical creams, and products used in cosmetics. You might have a serious reaction (including shock or anaphylaxis) to the drugs or medications used in this procedure. If you have an allergic reaction, you may need more treatment.

**Lack of Permanent Results:**

Chemical peels or other skin treatments may not fully improve skin problems. They may not prevent future skin issues, lesions, or wrinkles. You might need more treatment, like surgery, to tighten your skin. You may also need to follow a skin care program after your chemical peel.

**Heart Problems:**

In some cases, chemical peel treatments that use phenol may cause an abnormal heartbeat. If this happens, you may need medical treatment. If you have this potentially serious problem, you may need to go to the hospital. You may also have other medical issues, and possibly even die.

**Skin Discoloration/Swelling:**

It's normal to have some swelling after a chemical skin peel. The skin around the treated area may look lighter or darker than the rest of the skin. Although it is rare, swelling and changes in skin color may last for a long time. In very rare cases, the effects may be permanent.

**Skin Sensitivity:**

After your treatment, you might have itchiness or tenderness. You may also have high sensitivity to hot or cold temperatures. This usually goes away as you heal. In rare cases, it might continue for a long time.

**Damaged Skin:**

If you've already had treatments like chemical peels or skin resurfacing, your skin may heal differently after this treatment. Healing may be different if your skin has been damaged by burns or if you've had electrolysis (hair removal treatment) or radiation therapy. You may or may not have problems. This cannot be predicted. If this happens, you may need more treatment. If you have ever had such treatments, you must tell your doctor.

**Surgical Anesthesia:**

Both local and general anesthesia have risks. All types of anesthesia and sedation may lead to problems, injuries, and even death.

**Pain:**

You may have pain after your treatment. How much it hurts and how long the pain lasts after the surgery may vary for each person. In rare cases, you may have ongoing (chronic) pain after skin treatment.

**Unknown Risks:**

There is a chance that more risks related to chemical skin peels and skin treatments may be found.

**Sun Tanning:**

The sun can damage your skin. Too much sun on an area where you've had a chemical peel, can cause scarring, color changes, and poor healing. If you tan, either in the sun or in a salon, you should talk to your



doctor. You may need to wait to have your treatment. You may also need to stop tanning until your doctor says it's okay to start again. Being in the sun can cause problems, even if you use sun block or wear layers of clothing. If you have a recent tan, you may need to delay or even cancel your treatment.

**DISCLAIMER**

Informed consent documents give you information about a procedure you are considering. These documents explain the risks of that procedure. They also discuss other treatment options, including not having surgery. This document is made after a full review of scientific literature and clinical practices. They describe a range of common risks and other forms of management of a disease.

However, informed consent documents can't cover everything. Your plastic surgeon may give you more or different information. This may be based on the facts of your case.

Informed consent documents are not meant to define or serve as the standard of medical care. Standards of medical care are determined based on the facts involved in an individual case. They may change with advances in science and technology. They can also change with the way doctors practice medicine.

**It is important that you read the above information carefully and get all your questions answered before signing the consent agreement on the next page.**



## CONSENT FOR PROCEDURE OR TREATMENT

1. I permit Dr. Kristopher Hamwi and the doctor’s assistants to do the procedure **chemical peel and skin treatment**.
2. I got the information sheet on **chemical peels and skin treatments**.
3. I understand that, during the procedure, an unexpected situation may require a different medical procedure than the procedure listed above. I permit the doctor listed above, the assistants, and/or designees to provide any treatment(s) that my doctor thinks are needed or helpful. My permission includes all treatments that my doctor does not plan to do at the start of the procedure.
4. I understand what my surgeon can and cannot do. I understand that no warranties or guarantees have been hinted at or stated outright about the outcome of the procedure. I have explained my goals. I understand which outcomes are realistic and which are not. All my questions have been answered. I understand the procedure’s risks. I am aware of other risks and possible issues, benefits, and options. I understand and choose to have the procedure.
5. I agree to the anesthetics and medications that are needed or helpful. I understand that all types of anesthesia have risks and may result in complications, injury, and even death.
6. I am aware of the serious risks to my health when blood products are used. I agree to my doctor using them if my doctor, assistants, and/or designees think they are needed or helpful.
7. I agree to the disposal of any tissue, medical devices, or body parts taken out during or after surgery. I also agree to any additional surgeries or treatments that are needed or helpful.
8. I agree to have parts of my body photographed or televised appropriately before, during, and after the procedure for medical, scientific, or educational reasons, if the pictures do not reveal my identity.
9. For medical education, I agree that onlookers can be in the operating room.
10. I permit my Social Security Number to be given to the right agencies for legal reasons and medical device registration, when necessary.
11. I agree to the charges for this procedure. I understand that the doctor’s charges are separate from the charges for the hospital and the anesthesia. I understand that there may be more charges if more procedures or treatments are needed or helpful. I agree to those charges, if any.
12. I understand that not having the surgery is an option and that I can opt out of having the procedure.
13. IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO ME IN A WAY THAT I UNDERSTAND:
  - a. THE ABOVE PROCEDURE TO BE PERFORMED
  - b. THERE MAY BE OTHER PROCEDURES OR TREATMENT OPTIONS
  - c. THERE ARE RISKS TO THE PROCEDURES

I CONSENT TO THE PROCEDURE AND THE ITEMS THAT ARE LISTED ABOVE (1-13).  
 I UNDERSTAND THE EXPLANATION AND HAVE NO MORE QUESTIONS.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Patient or Person Authorized to Sign for Patient                      Date/Time

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Witness    Date/Time