



CHEMICAL PEEL INFORMED CONSENT

This form is designed to give you the information you need to make an informed choice on whether or not to undergo a chemical peel. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. While a chemical peel is effective in most cases, no guarantee can be made that a specific patient will benefit from treatment.

I understand that this treatment:

Causes a burning sensation that will last one to several minutes.

May need to be done more than once, depending upon my skin type and the nature of my skin problem.

At an early stage of treatment, the site of the peel will undergo the following stages:
The skin will feel tight for 2-3 days after the application of the solution. It will darken on the second day or early on the third day, and then will start to peel. The peeling will last 1-2 weeks. Swelling particularly around the eyes, also takes place with deeper peels. Cool, dry compresses help to reduce the swelling.

The skin may feel dry and itchy; a mild stinging sensation may also be present. Adherence to the home care instructions should ease any discomfort, which usually subsides when the peel is completed.

The deeper the peel, the more time is needed for healing – up to 2 weeks or so.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

Though uncommon, complications can occur from this procedure as well as any other form of surgical treatment. Careful attention to the instructions is imperative. Contact the office if any of the following occur:

- Skin infection: Appearance of a cold sore on the lips or any other site of the treatment area; it could spread if not cared for immediately, and possibly result in scarring.

- Decrease or increase skin pigmentation: most will usually blend in eventually, but some may never disappear. Sun exposure increases the risk of hyperpigmentation and a broad-spectrum sunscreen should be worn daily.

- Changes in skin texture: A line of demarcation between the peeled and unpeeled skin. Hypertrophic reactions or keloids in susceptible people may suddenly appear around the lips, along the jaw line or in cheeks. Most of these respond to injections or special creams. Some scarring could be permanent. Scarring from infection, irritation or scratching does blend and ordinarily disappears in a few months, but again, some scarring could be permanent. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about possible complications and I understand them. Application of sunscreen, use of hats, protective clothing, avoidance of tanning and tanning salons is recommended to lessen sun exposure. Medical treatment is not an exact science. The degree of improvement is variable. Occasionally, there is no improvement and another form of treatment may be required. Occasionally, there may even be worsening. The results may be temporary and treatment does not take the place of preventative skin care.