

## **INFORMED CONSENT FOR ERBIUM LASER RESURFACING**

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

Although the laser surgery is effective in most cases, no guarantee can be made that a specific patient will benefit from the treatment.

Erbium laser resurfacing is a procedure usually performed for the purpose of wrinkle improvement or the treatment of other skin conditions such as acne scarring. The Erbium laser emits an intense beam of light that heats and vaporizes skin and tissues instantaneously. It is done so precisely that surrounding tissue is hardly affected. Erbium laser resurfacing initially causes the skin to become swollen and possibly with a slight ooze.

After the oozing resolves, underlying healthy pink or red skin will be seen. This skin color will improve over several weeks. In some patients, the redness will persist for a longer period. Generally, the results of Erbium laser resurfacing demonstrate improvement of the skin. However, a perfect result is not a realistic expectation.

Some of the possible complications of Erbium laser resurfacing are:

1. Discomfort - Most people feel some discomfort during treatment if no anesthetic is used. A local anesthetic is usually used to block discomfort during the treatment. There may be some degree of discomfort for the first several days after surgery.
2. Wound Healing - The Erbium laser causes a superficial wound to the skin that takes several weeks to heal. The superficial injury of the outer layer skin results in swelling and oozing over the treated area. Once the surface is healed, it is pink and may become sensitive to the sun for another three months.
3. Pigment Changes - The treated area may heal with increased pigmentation. This occurs more often in darker pigmented skin and following exposure of the area to the sun. It is recommended that you protect yourself from any sun exposure for at least three months following treatment. Hyper-pigmentation usually fades in three to six months. However, pigment change can be permanent. Loss of pigment is also possible, but is extremely rare.
4. Excessive Swelling - Immediately after laser surgery there will be some swelling of the skin. This is a temporary condition and will resolve in three to seven days.
5. Scarring - There is a small chance of scarring, including hypertrophic scars or, very rarely, keloid scars. Keloid scars are very heavy raised scar formations. To minimize chances of scarring, it is important that you follow all postoperative instructions carefully. It is important that any prior history of unfavorable healing be reported.
6. Eye Exposure - There is also risk of harmful eye exposure to laser surgery. Safeguards will be provided. It is important that you keep your eyes closed and have protective eye wear at all times during the laser treatment.

Additional risks and alternatives:

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I certify that I have read or have had read to me, the contents of this form. I understand the risks and alternatives involved in this procedure. I have had the opportunity to ask any questions that I had and all of my questions have been answered.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Patient or person authorized  
to consent for patient)