

About Risks

We want you to fully understand the risks involved in surgery so that you can make an informed decision. Although complications are infrequent, all surgeries have some degree of risk. All of us at Cosmetic Surgery Affiliates will use our expertise and knowledge to avoid complications so far as we are able. If a complication does occur, we will use those same skills in an attempt to solve the problem quickly. The importance of having a specialized and qualified medical team and the use of a state-of-the art facility cannot be overestimated. In general, the least serious problems occur more often and the more serious problems occur very rarely. If a complication does arise, you, the physician, and the nursing staff will need to cooperate in order to resolve the problem. Most complications involve an extension of the recovery period rather than any permanent effect on your final result. This may involve an unplanned admission to a hospital or an overnight stay within our facility and an evaluation in the morning.

Normal Symptoms

Swelling and bruising: Moderate swelling and bruising are normal after any surgery. Severe swelling and bruising may indicate bleeding or possible infection.

Discomfort and Pain

Mild to moderate discomfort is normal after any surgery. If the pain becomes severe and is not relieved by pain medication, please call us at (405) 842-6677.

Incision line crusting

Daily soap and water washes will ensure cleanliness.

Numbness

Small sensory nerves to the skin surface are occasionally cut when the incision is made or interrupted by undermining of the skin during surgery. The sensation in those areas gradually returns, usually within three to six months as the nerve endings heal.

Itching

Itching and occasional small shooting electrical sensations within the skin frequently occur as the nerve endings heal. Ice and skin moisturizers are frequently helpful. These symptoms are common during the recovery period.

Redness of scars

All new scars are red, dark pink, or purple. Scars on the face usually fade within three to six months. Scars on the breasts or body may take a year longer to fade completely.

Common Risks

Hematoma: Small collections of blood under the skin are usually allowed to absorb spontaneously. Larger hematomas may require aspiration, drainage, or even surgical removal to achieve the best result. Inflammation and infection: A superficial infection may require antibiotic ointment. Deeper infections are treated with antibiotics. Development of an abscess usually requires drainage. Thick, wide, or depressed scars: Abnormal scars may occur even though we have used the most modern cosmetic surgery techniques. Injection of steroids into the scars, placement of silicone sheeting onto the scars, or further surgery to correct the scars is occasionally necessary. Some areas on the body scar more than others and some people scar more than others do. Your own history of scarring should give you some indication of what you can expect. Wound separation or delayed healing: Any incision during the healing phase may separate or heal unusually slow for a number of reasons. These include inflammation, infection, wound tension, decreased circulation, smoking, or excess external pressure. If delayed healing occurs, the final outcome is usually not significantly affected, but secondary revision of the scar may be indicated. Sensitivity or allergy to dressings/tape:

Occasionally, allergic or sensitivity reactions may occur from soaps, ointments, tape, or sutures used during or after surgery. Such problems are unusual, and are usually mild and easily treated. In extremely rare circumstances, allergic reactions can be severe and require aggressive treatment or even hospitalization. Injury to deeper structures: Blood vessels, nerves, and muscles may be injured during surgery. This incidence of such injuries is rare.

More Rare

If they are severe, any of the problems mentioned under Common Risks may significantly delay healing or necessitate further surgical procedures. Lidocaine toxicity pertaining to lipoplasty: There is the possibility that large volumes of fluid containing diluted local anesthetic drugs and epinephrine that is injected into fatty deposits during surgery may contribute to fluid overload or systemic reaction to these medications. Additional treatment, including hospitalization, may be necessary.

Complications

Medical complications such as pulmonary embolism, severe allergic reactions to medications, cardiac arrhythmias, heart attack, and hyperthermia are rare but serious and life threatening. Having a dedicated and sub-specialized medical team reduces these risks as much as possible. Failure to disclose all pertinent medical data before surgery may cause serious problems for you and for the medical team during surgery.

Unsatisfactory Result and Need for Revision Surgery

GENERAL SURGICAL RISKS

All cosmetic surgery treatments and operations are performed to improve a condition, a problem, or appearance. While the procedures are performed with a very high probability of success, disappointments occur and results are not always acceptable to patients or the

surgeon. Secondary procedures or treatments may be indicated. Rarely, problems may occur that are permanent. POOR RESULTS: Asymmetry, unhappiness with the result, poor healing, etc. may occur. Minimal differences are usually acceptable. Larger differences frequently require revision surgery. This may result in additional changes. Please see our revision policy for details.

Other Risks

We have outlined the common and not so common risks of surgery in general. We have discussed every possible problem that may occur, and you cannot assume that a problem will not occur simply because it is not discussed here.

I acknowledge that the risks and complications of the surgery I am to undergo have been explained and discussed with me in detail by Dr. Nuveen and by the nursing staff. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions and any concerns I had about my surgery have been explained to me.

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Patient Signature and Date