

FAT INJECTIONS

Fat injections involve harvesting small amounts of fat from areas such as the abdomen or thigh and placing them into recipient sites like the face and lips. These injections provide soft tissue “fill” to augment smaller thin lips, to soften large folds around the mouth (the nasolabial folds), to accent cheeks and/or chin pads, or to correct indentations/deep wrinkles. The fat is taken out with a gentle suction device, and then carefully injected into the recipient areas with special needles. The procedure can be done alone, in an office setting, or it can be combined with facelifts, brow lifts, etc. in a hospital setting. The transfer of the fat is done to achieve the desired effect, but occasionally it can last only three to six (3-6) months. In some areas, like the lips, cheeks, or chin pads, to compensate for some of the possible resorption, a slight over-correction can be done. However, an over-correction is not appropriate in areas like brow furrows or in indentations because the “fill” would be too obvious and visible. In **extremely** rare cases, the fat transferred can increase in size if there is extreme weight gain in the patient and this would necessitate removal of the transferred fat. Many plastic surgeons attest to the fact that repeat fat injections tend to last longer. Therefore, if a desired result is obtained, but then gradually dissipates, it is not uncommon to touch-up the injection for better maintenance.

The risks involved are few and include infection, scar tissue, bleeding, sensory change, complete resorption, and bruising. Infection is rare and treated with antibiotics and warm compresses. Scar tissue refers to the “hardening” of some of the transferred fat so that it feels firm as opposed to soft. If this were to happen, massage and time would help to soften the area. The hardness would not be visible, but more so palpable. Extreme bleeding is rare and bruising heals on its own. Complete resorption means that the “fill” dissipates completely and in this case, a repeat injection could be considered. The fat is your own tissue, so rejection does not occur with these transfers.

Alternatives to fat injections or transfers include Collagen, Restylane®, and Juvederm injections. Collagen is derived from either human or bovine (cow) sources and lasts about three to four (3-4) months. Silicone can also be injected, but few patients choose it and Dr. Pautler does not recommend it.

Restylane® and Juvederm are dermal fillers made of non-animal-based hyaluronic acid. Hyaluronic acid is a natural substance that already exists in the human body and is used to provide volume and fullness to the skin. Restylane and Juvederm effects generally last for about six (6) months. Other alternative forms of treatment would include not treating the area by any means.

Initials _____

CONSENT FOR AUTOLOGOUS FAT TRANSFER

Patient's Name: _____

1. The nature and effects of this operation, the risks and complications involved, as well as alternative methods of treatment have been fully explained to me and I understand them. I have been given the opportunities to ask questions and all questions have been answered to my satisfaction.
2. I authorize Dr. Pautler to remove fat from the "donor" area. I understand that although it is unlikely, there may be dimpling or unevenness of skin in this area.
3. I consent to the administration of anesthetics by the doctor or under the direction of the anesthetist responsible for this service.
4. Unforeseen severe bruising, swelling, infection, pain, discoloration, disfigurement, muscle and/or nerve damage and scarring, although rare, are possible. I understand the practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science and the reputable practitioners cannot guarantee results. No guarantee or assurance has been given to me by the doctor or anyone else as to the results that may be obtained.
5. I understand the two sides of the human body are not exactly the same and can never be made the same.
6. I give permission to Dr. Simona V. Pautler to take still or motion clinical photographs.
7. I understand that elective surgical procedures are most often delayed until after the termination of a pregnancy. My signature attests that, to the best of my knowledge, I am not pregnant at this time.
8. I understand that fat transfer will not bring about permanent correction. Touch-ups may be needed at 3 to 6 month intervals to maintain the result. There may be additional costs for each touch-up procedure.
9. Improvement, not perfection, is the goal. Average correction may vary from 20 to 80 percent.
10. Lumpiness or irregular contour may occur at the site of fat implantation; this may very rarely be permanent.
11. I agree to discontinue smoking entirely for a period of 2 weeks prior to surgery and 2 weeks immediately following surgery.

My signature indicates that I have read this "Consent for Fat Transfer" and I understand and accept the risks involved in this operation. I hereby authorize Dr. Simona Pautler and/or her surgical team to perform this surgical procedure on me.

PATIENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

WITNESS SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Initials _____