



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
PLASTIC SURGEONS®

# Informed Consent

## Rhinoplasty Surgery

**INSTRUCTIONS**

This informed consent document will help you learn about rhinoplasty surgery. It will also outline the risks and other treatments.

It is important that you read this 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**

Rhinoplasty is a common surgery of the nose. This surgery can change the way you look. It can also change the structure and function of the nose. Rhinoplasty can make the size of the nose smaller or bigger. It can change the shape of the tip, narrow the width of the nostrils, and change the angle between the nose and the upper lip. This surgery can correct birth defects. It can also fix nasal injuries and some breathing problems.

The surgery is different for each patient depending on his or her needs. Cuts may be made inside the nose or in parts of the nose that cannot be seen. In some cases, cartilage grafts taken from the nose or from other areas of the body may be used to reshape the nose. Internal nose surgery to improve breathing via the nose can be done at the time of the rhinoplasty.

This surgery works best for people looking to improve the way their nose looks. It cannot give you a perfect nose. You must have realistic expectations of the surgery. You should also have good physical and mental health if you plan to go in for this surgery. This surgery can be done along with other surgeries.

**OTHER TREATMENTS**

Other treatments include not having rhinoplasty surgery. Some internal nasal airway disorders may not need surgery on the outside of the nose. Some nasal shape problems may be treated with temporary injectable fillers. All alternative forms of treatment have their own risks.

**RISKS OF RHINOPLASTY SURGERY**

All surgeries have risks. It is important that you know these risks. You must also understand other issues that might come up during or after surgery. Every procedure has its limits. Choosing to have surgery means comparing the risks and benefits. Most patients do not face problems, but you should talk about them with your plastic surgeon. Make sure you know all possible risks of rhinoplasty.

**SPECIFIC RISKS OF RHINOPLASTY SURGERY****Infection:**

The nose is home to many germs. You may need antibiotics or other treatment if you have an infection. In some cases, surgical implants or hardware placed during surgery may need to be removed.

**Bleeding:**

In rare cases, there may be problems with bleeding during or after surgery. You may need emergency treatment to stop the bleeding or drain the collected blood (hematoma). Bleeding may make breathing difficult. Do not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for ten days before surgery. They can increase the risk of bleeding. Non-prescription “herbs” and dietary supplements can increase the risk. High blood pressure that is not under good medical control may cause bleeding during or after surgery. Collection of blood under the skin may delay healing and cause scars.

**Scars:**

All surgeries leave scars. Some are more visible than others. Proper wound healing is likely after surgery. However, abnormal scars may form within the septum and nasal tissues. Scars may look bad and be a



different color than the rest of the skin. Parts of the same scar may look different. They may be asymmetrical. You may have visible marks on the skin from stitches. In some cases, you may need surgery or more treatment to fix this. Scarring inside the nose may block the airway. You will need more surgery to fix this.

**Unsatisfactory Cosmetic Result:** Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee of the final results of the rhinoplasty surgery. Everybody is different and nobody is perfectly symmetrical or even. Your surgeon may not know in advance about some of these natural issues. Many issues with unevenness can't be fully corrected with surgery. The more realistic your expectations are, the better your results will be. Some patients never reach their desired goals or results, but this is not the fault of the surgeon or operation. You may be disappointed with the results of surgery. A range of results can happen after surgery. These can sometimes include unevenness, unexpected shape and size, loss of function, wounds, poor healing, scars, changes in appearance, or loss of feeling. It is also possible that the issue for which you had surgery could come back. You may choose to have more surgery to get a result you are happy with.

It can be stressful to have a result you don't like. Before surgery, talk with your surgeon about any concerns you have. Also, tell your doctor if you have a history of depression or mental health disorders. Although many people are happy after surgery, it's impossible to predict what effect surgery may have on your mental health.

**Nasal Airway Obstruction:**

Changes may occur after a rhinoplasty or septoplasty operation. This may interfere with the way air normally moves through the nose. During rhinoplasty surgery several areas may be addressed that are important for improving the airway including the septum, nasal valve, inferior turbinates, and sidewall of the nose. While the goal is always to improve or maintain the airway, there is a small chance that surgery can negatively impact your ability to breathe through your nose. The nose may be dry or excessively runny after surgery. It is common for these symptoms to be permanent.

**Need for Revision Surgery:**

Many things may affect the results of your rhinoplasty surgery, both now and in the future. No rhinoplasty surgery is ever perfect. It is unknown how your tissue may respond or how wound healing will occur after surgery. Secondary surgery may be necessary to perform additional contouring or to fix breathing issues. Should complications occur, additional surgery or other treatments may be necessary. Even though risks and complications occur infrequently, the risks cited are particularly associated with this surgery. Other complications and risks can occur but are even more uncommon. The practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science. Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee or warranty expressed or implied, on the results that may be obtained. In some situations, it may not be possible to achieve optimal results with a single surgical procedure. This may require multiple surgical sessions to produce a final outcome.

There may be additional costs for additional procedures like this. This would include surgical fees, facility and anesthesia fees, and pathology and lab testing. The patient should clarify with their surgeon who is responsible for payment of any additional surgery.

**Prolonged Swelling or Bruising:**

Many patients may develop bruising after rhinoplasty surgery. This will usually resolve in about 7 to 10 days after surgery. The nose will be noticeable swollen for a few weeks. The nose will look more refined around the two-month mark. A minor amount of swelling may be present for up to 1 year and sometimes longer in revision cases. Patients with thick skin will generally have swelling for longer period of time.

**Cerebrospinal Fluid Leak:**

In very rare cases, cerebrospinal fluid may leak from the nose. This may require more surgery.

**Damage to Donor Sites:**

In some cases, cartilage or bone grafts may be taken from other parts of the body. Your surgeon will tell you the risks of this.

**Implants:**

An implant may be used in some cases. Implants may become infected or exposed. If this happens, the implant must be removed. This may occur later.

**Delayed Healing:**

Some areas of the nose may not heal normally or may take a long time to heal. Some areas of the skin may die. You may need dressing changes often or more surgery to remove the non-healed tissue. Certain medical conditions, dietary supplements and medications may delay and interfere with healing. Patients with diabetes, weakened immune systems, or those taking medications such as steroids on an extended basis may also have prolonged healing issues. Individuals who have decreased blood supply to tissue from past surgery or radiation therapy may be at increased risk for delayed wound healing and poor surgical outcome.

**Smokers have a greater risk of skin death and wound healing complications due to the effect of Nicotine in reducing blood circulation to the healing tissue.**

There are general risks associated with healing such as swelling, bleeding, and the length of surgery and anesthesia that include a longer recovery and the possibility of additional surgery, prolonged recovery, color changes, shape changes, infection, not meeting goals and expectations, and added expense to the patient.

**Nasal Septal Perforation/Hematoma:**

During rhinoplasty surgery the septum is usually straightened and used as a source for cartilage grafts. There is small chance of a hole developing in the septum that could result in a whistling noise or some bleeding/crusting. This can often be repaired with a second surgery if needed. In some cases, this problem may not be fixable. A blood or fluid collection may form in the septum that will need further treatment. This is exceedingly rare.

**Substance Abuse Disorders:**

Individuals with substance abuse problems who inhale vasoconstrictive drugs, such as cocaine, are at risk for major problems. This could lead to poor healing and nasal septal perforation.

**Blood Clotting Issue that Could be Life-Threatening:**

Sometimes surgery can cause issues with your blood vessels, including clotting. In most cases, these fix themselves without needing treatment. However, some procedures have a higher risk of developing blood clots than others, particularly in deeper veins. If a clot forms in a deep vein, it is called deep vein thrombosis (DVT). It can lead to chronic swelling. If the blood clot breaks off and travels to the lungs, it is called pulmonary embolism (PE). PE can be very dangerous. If DVT/PE occurs, you may be given medication to “dissolve” the clot. This medication may increase your risk of bleeding. It is important to tell your surgeon if you or your family have a history of DVT/PE. Discuss your medical history with your surgeon, because some issues may increase your risks. These include taking some types of birth control or estrogen pills, obesity, history of cancer, history of inflammatory bowel disease, etc.

**Reactions/Allergies to Medications and Supplies:** All medical procedures use a range of medications and supplies. Your body may react to some supplies, including tape, glue, sutures, or garments. These reactions include allergies. Allergies can be minor (itching), moderate (rash), or severe. Severe allergies may result in death (including shock or swelling in your mouth and throat that prevents you from breathing normally). Tell your doctor about any previous allergic reactions you may have had, no matter how mild



they were. Medications can also lead to allergies or other reactions. Certain medications, including those used for local or general anesthesia, may affect the heart, lungs, brain, kidneys, liver, or other body functions. These reactions may be life-threatening.

**Surgical Anesthesia:** Both local and general anesthesia involve risks. There is a possibility of complications, injury, and even death from all types of surgical anesthesia or sedation. Please let your surgeon know about all health issues you may have, especially those that involve how your heart and lungs work. It's also important to tell your doctor about your overall fitness level, because this can affect how anesthesia works on you.

**Cardiac and Pulmonary Complications:** Pulmonary complications may occur secondarily to both blood clots (pulmonary emboli), fat deposits (fat emboli) or partial collapse of the lungs after general anesthesia. Pulmonary emboli can be life-threatening or fatal in some circumstances. Inactivity and other conditions may increase the incidence of blood clots traveling to the lungs causing a major blood clot that may result in death. It is important to discuss with your physician any past history of swelling in your legs or blood clots that may contribute to this condition. Cardiac complications are a risk with any surgery and anesthesia, even in patients without symptoms. If you experience shortness of breath, chest pain, or unusual heart beats, seek medical attention immediately. Should any of these complications occur, you may require hospitalization and additional treatment.

### **DISCLAIMER**

Informed consent documents give you information about a surgery you are considering. These documents explain the risks of that surgery. They also discuss other treatment options, including not having surgery. 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. Siamak Agha, Dr. Lee Pu, Dr. Ali Razfar, and the doctor's assistants to do the procedure **Rhinoplasty Surgery**.
2. I got the information sheet on Rhinoplasty Surgery. My diagnoses/condition is the desire for aesthetic change and/or improve nasal breathing
3. I understand that, during the surgery, an unexpected situation may require a different medical procedure than the surgery listed above. I permit the doctor listed above, the assistants and/or designees to provide any treatment that my doctor thinks is needed or helpful. My permission includes all treatments that my doctor does not plan to do at the start of the surgery.
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 surgery. I have explained my goals. I understand which outcomes are realistic and which are not. All my questions have been answered. I understand the surgery's risks. These include: **bleeding, infection, pain, scarring, bruising, swelling, numbness of the front teeth and nasal tip, nose firmness, septal perforation/hematoma, need for further surgery, nasal obstruction, and unfavorable cosmetic result**. I am aware of other unforeseeable risks, benefits, and alternatives. I understand and choose to have the surgery.
5. I have been informed that the above operation may require the transplant of tissue, cartilage, or bone from other areas of the body.
6. I agree to the anesthetics that are needed or helpful. I understand that all types of anesthesia have risks and may result in complications, injury, and even death.
7. 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.
8. I agree to the disposal of any tissue, medical devices, or body parts taken out during or after surgery.
9. I agree to have parts of my body photographed or televised appropriately before, during, and after the surgery for medical, scientific, educational reasons, or online factual disputes, if the pictures do not reveal my identity. 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 surgery. 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 surgery.
13. IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO ME IN A WAY THAT I UNDERSTAND:
  - a. THE ABOVE SURGERY TO BE PERFORMED
  - b. THERE MAY BE OTHER SURGERIES OR TREATMENT OPTIONS
  - c. THERE ARE RISKS TO THE SURGERY

I CONSENT TO THE SURGERY 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