

# INFORMED CONSENT FOR FACIAL REJUVENATION ACUPUNCTURE

(Facial Acupuncture Treatment)

## INSTRUCTIONS

This is an informed consent document that has been prepared to help your acupuncturist inform you concerning facial acupuncture treatments, the risk involved, and possible alternatives. Please be advised that this is not a surgical procedure.

It is important that you read this information carefully and completely. **Please initial each page, indicating that you have read the page and sign the consent for facial acupuncture treatment.**

## INTRODUCTION

A facial acupuncture treatment involves the insertion of acupuncture needles into fine lines and wrinkles on the face and neck in order to reduce the visible signs of aging. In Oriental medicine, the meridians or pathways of Qi (energy) flow throughout the entire body from the soles of the feet up to the face and head; consequently, a facial acupuncture treatment addresses the entire body constitutionally, and is not merely “cosmetic.” A facial acupuncture treatment involves the patient in an organic, gradual process, that is customized for each individual. It is no way analogous to, or a substitute for, a surgical “face lift”. A treatment session may confine itself solely to facial acupuncture, or it may be used in conjunction with other procedures.

## BENEFITS

Facial acupuncture can increase facial tone, decrease puffiness around the eyes, as well as bring more firmness to sagging skin, enhance the radiance of the complexion, and flesh out sunken areas. Customarily, fine wrinkles will disappear, and deeper ones be reduced. As this treatment is not merely confined to the face, but incorporates the entire body and constitutional issues of health.

## ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT

Improvement of sagging skin, wrinkles and fatty deposits may be attempted by other treatments or surgery such as a surgical facelift, chemical face peels, or liposuction. Risk and potential complications are associated with these alternative forms of treatment.

## RISKS OF A FACIAL ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENT

Every procedure involves a certain amount of risk and it is important that you understand the risks involved with a facial acupuncture treatment. An individual's choice to undergo facial acupuncture is based upon the comparison of the risk to potential benefit. Although the majority of patients do not experience the following complications, you should discuss each of them with your acupuncturist to make sure you understand the risks, potential complications, and consequences of a facial acupuncture treatment.

## BLEEDING

It is possible, though very unusual, that you may have problems with bleeding during a facial acupuncture treatment. Should post-acupuncture bleeding occur, it will usually only consist of a few drops. Accumulations of blood under the skin may cause a bruise, or hematoma, which will resolve itself.

## INFECTION

Infection is very unusual after a facial acupuncture treatment. Should an infection occur, additional treatment, including antibiotics, may be necessary.

## DAMAGE TO DEEPER STRUCTURES

Deeper structures such as blood vessels and muscles are rarely damaged during the course of a facial acupuncture treatment. If this does occur, the injury may be temporary or permanent.

## ASYMMETRY

The human face is normally asymmetrical. Thus, there can be a variation from one side to the other in the results attained from a facial acupuncture treatment.

## **BRUISING AND PUFFINESS**

There is a possibility of bruising (hematomas), puffiness, blood, tingling, itching, warmth, pain or other symptoms at the site of the needle.

## **NERVE INJURY**

Injuries to the motor or sensory nerves rarely result from facial acupuncture treatments. Nerve injuries may cause temporary or permanent loss of facial movements and feeling. Such injuries may improve over time. Injury to sensory nerves of the face, neck and ear regions may cause temporary or more rarely permanent numbness. Painful nerve scarring is very rare.

## **NEEDLE SHOCK**

Needle shock is a rare complication after a facial acupuncture treatment.

## **UNSATISFACTORY RESULT**

There is the possibility of a poor result from a facial acupuncture treatment. You may be disappointed with the results.

## **ALLERGIC REACTIONS**

In rare cases, local allergies to topical preparations have been reported. Systemic reactions, which are more serious may occur to herbs used during an acupuncture facial. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.

## **DELAYED HEALING**

Delayed wound healing or wound disruption is a rare complication experienced by patients in the aftermath of an acupuncture facial. There is a greater risk for smokers, who frequently have dry, sagging skin, which does not heal as readily as that of non-smokers.

## **LONG TERM EFFECTS**

Subsequent alterations in facial appearance may occur as the result of the normal process of aging, weight loss or gain, sun exposure, or other circumstances not related to an acupuncture facial. An acupuncture facial does not arrest the aging process or produce permanent tightening of the face and neck. Future facial acupuncture maintenance treatments, or other treatments, may be necessary to maintain the results of an acupuncture facial.

## **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The cost of an acupuncture facial involves several charges for the services provided. The total includes fees charged by your acupuncturist, the cost of acupuncture supplies, and topical preparations. **You will be fully responsible for all charges** and no receipt will be given for the purpose of insurance submission. This procedure is not covered by insurance.

## **DISCLAIMER**

Informed-consent documents are used to communicate information about the proposed procedure along with disclosure of risks and alternative forms of treatments (s). The informed consent process attempts to define principles of risk disclosure that should generally meet the needs of most patients in most circumstances.

However, informed consent documents should not be considered all-inclusive in defining other methods of care and risks encountered. Your acupuncturist may provide you with additional or different information which is based upon all the facts in your particular case and the present state of knowledge within the field of acupuncture. Informed consent documents are not intended to define or serve as the standard of acupuncture. Standards of acupuncture are determined on the basis of all of the facts involved in an individual case and are subject to change as scientific knowledge and technology advance and as practice patterns evolve.

It is important that you read the above information carefully and have all of your questions answered before signing the consent page.