# Informed Consent

## Skin Graft Surgery

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## INSTRUCTIONS

This is an informed consent document to help you learn about skin graft surgery. It will outline the risks and other treatments.

It is important that you read the 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

In a skin graft surgery, skin taken from one area of the body is used to cover another area. This surgery is common. Skin grafts help to heal wounds that may not heal properly on their own. Skin grafts are done when there's enough physical tissue support and blood supply to keep the moved skin healthy.

Skin grafts vary depending on the thickness of the skin that is being moved from one part of the body to another. A "split-thickness" skin graft uses only some of the layers of your skin. The place where the split-thickness graft is taken from (the donor site) can heal on its own. Large areas of the body can be used for split-thickness skin grafts. A "full thickness" skin graft is different. It uses all the layers of skin and sometimes deeper tissues, too. Full-thickness grafts are usually used only when thicker skin is needed to treat very bad wounds. Your doctor will carefully choose where the skin is to be taken from because full-thickness skin graft donor sites can't be used more than once.

Skin grafts can help heal wounds caused by disease. They can also be done in cases of burns or to remove tumors. Some wounds may need more help healing; for example, special reconstruction treatments. In some cases, you might need to have other surgeries or treatments like bandage changes and hydrotherapy to prepare your wound for a skin graft.

## OTHER TREATMENTS

There are other ways to treat your wound. You may choose not to have surgery at all. Some minor wounds may heal without surgery. However, you might have scars or see changes in how the injured area feels or works. Some wounds may heal with negative pressure therapy. In other cases, different treatments like moving other tissues might work better than skin grafts. All procedures have their own risks and problems.

## RISKS OF SKIN GRAFT SURGERY

Every surgery has risks. It is important that you understand the risks and the possible problems that can result from them. All procedures have limits. Choosing to have a 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 understand all possible outcomes of skin graft surgery.

## SPECIFIC RISKS OF SKIN GRAFT SURGERY

### Inability to Heal:

Conditions like diseases, injuries, burns, and the surgical removal of tumors can cause serious wounds Skin grafts need enough blood supply to stay healthy. If you don't have enough blood supply because of an injury, disease, or the effects of radiation therapy, you may have trouble with your skin graft. Skin grafts may not work properly if you have a disease that causes swelling or if you have trouble with your blood vessels. Some wounds may be so serious that skin grafts can't fix them. In such cases, you may need different surgeries.

### Skin Sensation:

You may see changes in how your skin feels around the place where your graft is taken from and where it's put. This can include numbness or a loss of your sense of touch. This might not get better with time. In general, skin graft areas don't get their full sensation back. This means you might not notice if there is too much


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heat, cold, or physical force to that area. This could cause injuries. It's important to protect the places where a skin graft was taken from and where it was placed to make sure you don't have issues. You may also notice itching at the donor or recipient sites. This may go away with time or may last for a long time.

**Skin Shape Irregularities:**
You may see changes in the shape of your skin after skin graft surgery. This can include bumps or dents in your body. You may also see or feel wrinkles. If a skin graft has been prepared using a graft meshing device, you may notice a visible pattern in the skin. You may also notice extra skin at the ends of surgical cuts, called "dog ears." You may need more surgery to fix this. These problems may get better with time.

**Scars:**
You may see changes in skin color after your surgery. This can happen near the graft and the donor site. These changes can be permanent. Scars may cause the skin graft to tighten. This can change how the treated area functions. You may need more surgery to treat this issue and to make it look or work better.

**Delayed Healing:**
You may have trouble healing after your surgery. You may have scars. You may also have trouble in the location from where the skin graft is taken. It may take a long time for the donor area to heal. You may also have trouble with bruises or wounds in the donor area. The skin graft may heal slowly or have trouble healing. Some areas of skin may die, requiring frequent bandage changes or more surgery to remove the tissue that isn't healing. Smokers are at a greater risk of skin loss and wound healing problems.

**Skin Discoloration and Swelling:**
It's normal to have some bruising and swelling after surgery. Both your skin graft and the place where your skin graft was taken from may change color. These areas might become lighter or darker than the rest of the skin. These changes can be permanent.

**Inability to Restore Function:**
In some cases, skin grafts cannot totally restore the normal function of your regular skin or undamaged deeper structures like muscles or nerves. Your wound may heal, but you may still have some loss of function. You might need more treatment or surgery to help fix these problems.

**Buried Surgical Staples/Stitches:**
The stitches and staples used to hold skin grafts in place can get buried under the skin as you heal. These stitches may poke through the skin, be seen, or become uncomfortable. They may need to be removed. You might need more surgery to remove buried staples and stitches.

**Lack of Graft Durability:**
Skin grafts don't act like normal, unhurt skin. They don't have as much padding and aren't as long-lasting. Skin grafts can be injured more easily than normal skin.

**Other Graft Materials:**
Your doctor may choose to use other grafting materials to close your wound. Some of these materials are synthetic (manmade). Some may come from animals like pigs or cows. Your surgeon will tell you if you might need these materials to help you heal.

**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. This document is made after a full review of scientific literature and clinical practices. They describe a range of common risks and other forms of management of a disease.

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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.**


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# CONSENT FOR PROCEDURE OR TREATMENT

1. I permit Dr. Thomas Jeneby and the doctor's assistants to do the procedure **skin graft surgery.**
2. I got the information sheet on **skin graft surgery.**
3. I understand that, during the procedure, an unexpected situation may require a different medical procedure than the procedure listed above. I permit the doctor listed above, the assistants, and/or designees to provide any treatment(s) that my doctor thinks are needed or helpful. My permission includes all treatments that my doctor does not plan to do at the start of the procedure.
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 procedure. I have explained my goals. I understand which outcomes are realistic and which are not. All my questions have been answered. I understand the procedure's risks. I am aware of other risks and possible issues, benefits, and options. I understand and choose to have the procedure.
5. I agree to the anesthetics and medications that are needed or helpful. I understand that all types of anesthesia have risks and may result in complications, injury, and even death.
6. 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.
7. I agree to the disposal of any tissue, medical devices, or body parts taken out during or after this procedure. I also agree to any additional surgeries or treatments that are needed or helpful.
8. I agree to have parts of my body photographed or televised appropriately before, during, and after the procedure for medical, scientific, or educational reasons, if the pictures do not reveal my identity.
9. 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 procedure. 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 procedure is an option and that I can opt out of having the procedure.
13. IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO ME IN A WAY THAT I UNDERSTAND:
    a. THE ABOVE PROCEDURE OR TREATMENT TO BE PERFORMED
    b. THERE MAY BE OTHER PROCEDURES OR TREATMENTS
    c. THERE ARE RISKS TO THIS PROCEDURE OR TREATMENT

I CONSENT TO THE PROCEDURE OR TREATMENT AND THE ABOVE LISTED ITEMS (1-13).
I AM SATISFIED WITH THE EXPLANATION AND HAVE NO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS.

_____

Patient or Person Authorized to Sign for Patient Date/Time

_____

Witness Date/Time



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