

### POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS OF FACELIFT

In general Oral and IM sedation with local anesthesia is all that is needed to accomplish the procedure that is considered relatively minor in nature.

**BLEEDING** – Minor bleeding or oozing from the incisions is common and is controlled by placing cold compresses over the area. Excessive oozing or development of a collection of blood (hematoma) occurs in 1% to 2% of patients, which may require treatment. If this occurs, recover time is not appreciably changed.

**INFECTION** – Infection is possible but very rare. You will be on antibiotics. If an infection does occur, changing to a different antibiotic is generally all that is needed.

**NERVE INJURY** – Permanent injury of sensory nerves that provide sensation to the face, neck, and ears, and injury of motor nerves that provide movement to muscles of the face, can occur. These injuries are rare but have occurred as reported in the medical literature. I do everything to prevent this from occurring. However, **temporary** numbness of the ears is very common and should not alarm you.

**HAIR LOSS** – Injury to hair follicles in the scalp can occur. I take every precaution to prevent this from happening.

**SKIN LOSS** – Smoking, infection and other problems can potentially cause skin loss adjacent to the incision line. This is very unusual in nonsmokers, and if it occurs, it generally heals without problems.

**ASYMMETRY** – An asymmetry following surgery is usually very slight and is generally associated with a pre-existing asymmetry. I do everything possible to provide a symmetric result.

**IRREGULARITIES** – “Small lumps” or “bumps” following surgery may occur. These resolve over a period of weeks as healing continues.

**POOR SCARRING** – Healing is beyond the control of the surgeon after closure of the incision has been performed. If healing results in an unacceptable scar (1% or less), a minor revision may be considered if I feel improvement can be achieved. Generally, 6-9 months are needed to assess this, as an undesirable scar can become nearly imperceptible with time.

**LIMITED RESULTS** – Remember, although I strive to achieve the very best result the goal is significant improvement not perfection. I will make every attempt to communicate what each of the recommended procedures can and cannot do for you based on the improvements you wish to make.

**NEED FOR REVISION SURGERY** – If a revision procedure is felt needed by both the patient and surgeon, fees will be charged based on the extent of the revision procedure. Fortunately, if needed, revisions are generally very minor.