

Pelosi Medical Center
CIGARETTE SMOKING ATTESTATION

All procedures in cosmetic surgery are performed to improve form and, in some cases, function. Our goal as cosmetic surgeons is to achieve improvement with minimal scarring. Unfortunately, smoking and secondary smoke affect wound healing in a potentially devastating way. Please be honest with us about your exposure to smoke so we can take good care of you and prevent problems and complications with your procedure.

Any exposure to smoke either directly or indirectly can result in poor wound healing, delayed wound healing, skin loss requiring skin grafting, increased risk of wound infection, and loss of skin and deeper tissues, all due to decreased blood supply to those areas. The reduced blood flow to skin wound edges can cause skin to break down and scab. This will negatively affect the quality and nature of the scar (there is an increased risk of hypertrophic or keloid scarring). This is true for any surgical procedures requiring incisions (even skin lesion removal and liposuction).

The following is a partial list of cosmetic procedures and the impact that smoking or inhaling second-hand smoke may have on wound healing. It is not intended to be a complete list of procedures or all possible complications. Because of these potential complications, the immediate stopping of smoking at least 4 weeks before the surgeries and postoperative abstinence for life, or for at least 4-6 weeks postoperative, is advised.

Breast Implants (Reconstruction, Tissue Expanders, and Augmentation): There is an increased risk of delayed wound healing, capsular contracture, and implant infection with the possibility of extrusion.

Breast Reduction and Breast Lift (Mastopexy): There can be delayed wound healing resulting in unsightly scarring and skin loss and potential nipple loss requiring skin graft. In all cases of patients who smoke or are exposed to smoke, wounds do not heal in the normal length of time. Wound healing can be prolonged as long as 3-4 months.

Abdominoplasty: Smoking or exposure to smoke will decrease the ability of the skin to heal properly resulting in unsightly scarring, higher risk for infection, and skin loss sometimes requiring a skin graft. Slow wound healing (months instead of weeks), skin loss resulting in scabbing and prolonged need for dressing changes, and infection (usually requiring antibiotics and sometimes another surgery to drain the infection) are all complications that can occur if you smoke or are exposed to second-hand smoke. If you have either stopped smoking very recently or have been unable to stop completely, you must accept these risks if you wish to proceed with surgery.

Liposuction and Fat Transfer: There is an associated increased risk of skin complications with *liposuction* (postoperative pain, inflammation, infection, bruising, swelling, loss of sensation in the skin, skin irregularities, skin necrosis, fat embolism, seroma, scarring, changes in skin coloration, etc.) and *fat transfer* (infection, fat necrosis, skin irregularities, and decrease in the retention of injected fat, etc.) in smokers.

Patient Initials

_____ I have read and understand the Patient Information on Cigarette Smoking and Cosmetic Surgery and I have had all of my questions regarding this form answered to my full satisfaction by my surgeon prior to my operation today.

IF YOU HAVE NEVER SMOKED CIGARETTES:

_____ I attest that I have never smoked cigarettes.

IF YOU ARE A PREVIOUS OR CURRENT SMOKER:

_____ I attest that I (have/have not) _____ quit cigarette smoking or refrained from cigarette smoking for at least four (4) weeks prior to my surgery today.

_____ I have been advised by my surgeon to refrain from cigarette smoking for at least six (6) weeks after my surgery today and preferably to quit smoking permanently.

Print Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** ____/____/____