

PELOSI MEDICAL CENTER

BRACHIOPLASTY CONSENT

I authorize Dr. Pelosi to perform brachioplasty (“arm lift”, “arm tuck”) surgery with/without tumescent liposuction of the arms and the surgery may include the upper arms exclusively or it may extend to the axillary region, and to the region extending from the axillary to the area lateral to the breasts.

INTRODUCTION

Brachioplasty is a surgical procedure to remove excess skin and fatty tissue from the axilla and upper arm. Brachioplasty is not a surgical treatment for being overweight. Obese individuals who intend to lose weight should postpone all forms of body contouring surgery until they have been able to maintain their weight loss.

There are a variety of different techniques for brachioplasty. Brachioplasty can be combined with other forms of body-contouring surgery, including liposuction, or performed at the same time with other elective surgeries.

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS

Alternative forms of management consist of not treating the areas of loose skin and fatty deposits. Liposuction may be a surgical alternative to brachioplasty if there is good skin tone and localized abdominal fatty deposits in an individual of normal weight. Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative forms of treatment that involve surgery. Diet and exercise programs may be of benefit in the overall reduction of excess body fat.

RISKS OF BRACHIOPLASTY SURGERY

Although the majority of patients do not experience the following complications, you should discuss each of them with Dr. Pelosi to make sure you understand all possible consequences of brachioplasty.

Bleeding- It is possible, though unusual, to experience a bleeding episode during or after surgery. Should post-operative bleeding occur, it may require emergency treatment to drain accumulated blood or blood transfusion.

Infection- Infection is unusual after this type of surgery. Should an infection occur, treatment including antibiotics or additional surgery may be necessary.

Change in skin sensation- Diminished (or loss of) skin sensation in the arm and forearm area *may* not totally resolve after brachioplasty.

Skin contour irregularities- Contour irregularities and depressions may occur after brachioplasty. Visible and palpable wrinkling of skin can occur.

Skin scarring- Excessive scarring is uncommon. In rare cases, abnormal scars may result. Scars may be unattractive and of different color than surrounding skin. Additional treatments including surgery may be necessary to treat abnormal scarring.

Surgical anesthesia- Both local and general anesthesia involve risk. There is the possibility of complications, injury, and even death from all forms of surgical anesthesia or sedation.

Asymmetry- Symmetrical body appearance may not result from brachioplasty. Factors such as skin tone, fatty deposits, bony prominence, and muscle tone may contribute to normal asymmetry in body features.

Delayed healing- Wound disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. Some areas of the arm may not heal normally and may take a long time to heal. Some areas of skin may die. This may require frequent dressing changes or further surgery to remove the non-healed tissue. Smokers have a greater risk of skin loss and wound healing complications.

Allergic reactions- In rare cases local allergies to tape, suture material, or topical preparations have been reported. Systemic reactions which are more serious may occur to drugs used during surgery and prescription medicines. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment

Deep Vein Thrombosis- Blood clots in the deep veins of the body is a potential complication of any surgery. If such a diagnosis is made, treatment may include short and possible long term therapy with blood thinning agents.

Pulmonary complications- Pulmonary complications may occur secondarily to both blood clots (pulmonary emboli) or partial collapse of the lungs after general anesthesia. Should either of these complications occur, you may require hospitalization and additional treatment. Pulmonary emboli can be life-threatening or fatal in some circumstances

Seroma- Fluid accumulations infrequently occur in between the skin and arm tissues. Should this problem occur, it may require additional procedures for drainage of fluid.

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Long term effects- Subsequent alterations in arm contour may occur as the result of aging, weight loss or gain, pregnancy, or other circumstances not related to brachioplasty.

Lymphedema- A brachioplasty procedure may produce a disruption of the lymphatic system leading to temporary or in rare instances permanent swelling of the arms and hands. Active patient involvement including the use of compression garments and physiotherapy may be necessary to treat this condition.

Pain- Chronic pain may occur very infrequently from nerves becoming trapped in scar tissue after brachioplasty.

Nerve Injury- Nerve injury Is a possible consequence of any kind of surgery.

Weight Change- Significant weight change following brachioplasty may adversely affect the aesthetic outcome of this procedure.

Other- You may be disappointed with the results of surgery. Infrequently, it is necessary to perform additional surgery to improve your results.

ADDITIONAL SURGERY NECESSARY

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 brachioplasty. 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.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The cost of surgery involves several charges for the services provided. The total includes fees charged by Dr. Pelosi, the cost of surgical supplies, and anesthesia. Additional costs may occur should complications develop from the surgery. Secondary surgery or hospital day-surgery charges involved with revisionary surgery would also be your responsibility.

DISCLAIMER

Informed consent documents are used to communicate information about the proposed surgical treatment of a disease or condition along with disclosure of risks and alternative forms of treatment(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. Dr. Pelosi may provide you with additional or different information that is based on the facts in your case and the state of medical knowledge.

Informed consent documents are not intended to define or serve as the standard of medical care. Standards of medical care are determined based on all 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 this consent.

_____	/ /	_____	/ /	_____	/ /
Patient Signature	Date	Witness Signature	Date	Surgeon Signature	Date