



INFORMED CONSENT

CHIN AND/OR PREJOWL AUGMENTATION

This informed-consent document has been prepared to help inform you about prejowl and chin augmentation with an implant, its risks, and alternative treatments. Please read it carefully and ask your surgeon about anything you do not understand.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Chin augmentation uses a solid implant placed over the chin bone to increase the forward projection of the chin and improve the balance between the chin, lips, and overall facial profile. A prejowl implant can also fill the hollows that form along the jawline with age (the "prejowl sulcus") to create a smoother, more youthful jaw contour. The implant is placed through a small incision either inside the mouth or beneath the chin, and it is often combined with other facial procedures.

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS

Alternatives include choosing no treatment, or considering movement of the chin bone itself (sliding genioplasty or bony advancement). Alternative implant materials include Mersilene mesh, Gore-Tex, and solid silicone (Silastic). Temporary, non-surgical improvement of the chin and prejowl area may be possible with injectable fillers. Risks and potential complications are associated with all of these alternatives.

GOALS

A chin implant is designed to increase the forward projection of the chin, giving it a more balanced and aesthetically pleasing appearance in relation to the lips and facial profile. A prejowl implant does not give forward projection of the chin; instead it provides volume correction to the sides of the chin (the prejowl area), giving youthful strength and definition to the front of the jawline and reducing the appearance of the jowls. The goal is meaningful improvement in facial balance, not perfection.

LIMITATIONS

Factors that may limit the result include an excessively small jaw or chin, limited height of the bony chin, prior surgery or scarring in the area, permanent dental implants, and any history of previous rejection of an implant material. Chin augmentation cannot change the underlying bone structure or stop the natural aging process.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

Expected effects after surgery include temporary swelling and bruising, and temporary numbness or tingling of the lower lip and chin. Firmness in the area is common as healing progresses. A temporarily stiff upper lip and an altered or "funny" smile may occur while the tissues heal, and usually improve over time.

RISKS OF CHIN & PREJOWL AUGMENTATION

Every surgical procedure involves risk. Although most patients do not experience complications, it is important that you understand the following and discuss any questions with your surgeon before proceeding.

- ◆ **Bleeding & hematoma.** Bleeding or a collection of blood (hematoma) can occur during or after surgery and may require additional treatment or a return to surgery. Avoid aspirin and anti-inflammatory medications as directed. Poorly controlled high blood pressure increases this risk.
- ◆ **Infection.** Infection is uncommon, but an infection around an implant may require antibiotics and, in some cases, temporary removal of the implant until the area heals.
- ◆ **Implant malposition or shifting.** The implant can move or sit asymmetrically, which may require revision surgery to reposition or replace it.
- ◆ **Implant extrusion.** Rarely, an implant can erode through the skin or gum and become exposed, requiring removal.



- ◆ **Capsular firmness.** The body forms a normal capsule around any implant; occasionally this capsule becomes firm or tightens, which can change the feel or contour of the area.
- ◆ **Bone changes.** Some settling of the bone beneath a chin implant (bone resorption) can occur over time and is usually not significant.
- ◆ **Lower lip & chin sensation or movement.** Numbness, tingling, or temporary weakness of the lower lip and chin can occur from stretching or irritation of nearby nerves. This is usually temporary but can rarely be permanent.
- ◆ **Asymmetry.** The face is naturally asymmetrical, and some difference between the two sides may remain or require revision surgery to improve.
- ◆ **Anesthesia.** Local and general anesthesia both involve risk, including, rarely, serious complications.
- ◆ **Unsatisfactory result.** There is no guarantee of results. You may be dissatisfied with the size, shape, or position of the implant, and additional surgery may be necessary to improve the outcome.

SMOKING & NICOTINE — PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Smoking and nicotine in any form — cigarettes, cigars, vaping, chewing tobacco, patches, gum, or lozenges — and exposure to second-hand smoke significantly increase the risk of serious complications, including poor wound healing, skin and tissue death (necrosis), increased scarring, infection, blood-flow problems, anesthesia complications, and, in some cases, failure of the procedure.

I understand that smoking, nicotine, and second-hand smoke raise these risks, that I should avoid them for at least four weeks before surgery and throughout my recovery, and that I must tell my surgeon if I use any nicotine product. Using nicotine around the time of surgery increases the risk of complications and may cause my surgeon to postpone or decline the procedure.

ADDITIONAL SURGERY

There are many variable conditions that may influence the long-term result of chin and prejowl augmentation. Secondary surgery may be necessary to obtain the optimal result or to address a complication such as implant shifting, infection, or asymmetry. Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee or warranty, expressed or implied, on the results that may be obtained.

PATIENT COMPLIANCE

Follow all physician instructions carefully; this is essential for the success of your outcome. It is important that the surgical incisions are not subjected to excessive force, swelling, abrasion, or motion during the time of healing. Personal and vocational activity needs to be restricted. Protective dressings and drains should not be removed unless instructed by your plastic surgeon. Successful post-operative function depends on both surgery and subsequent care. Physical activity that increases your pulse or heart rate may cause bruising, swelling, fluid accumulation and the need for return to surgery. It is wise to refrain from intimate physical activities after surgery until your physician states it is safe. It is important that you participate in follow-up care, return for aftercare, and promote your recovery after surgery.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Chin and prejowl augmentation performed for cosmetic reasons is generally not covered by health insurance, nor are any complications that might result. Please review your health-insurance information carefully.



FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The cost of surgery involves several charges for the services provided. The total includes fees charged by your surgeon, the cost of surgical supplies, anesthesia, laboratory tests, and possible outpatient hospital charges, depending on where the surgery is performed. Depending on whether the cost of surgery is covered by an insurance plan, you will be responsible for necessary co-payments, deductibles, and charges not covered. The fees charged for this procedure do not include any potential future costs for additional procedures that you elect to have or require in order to revise, optimize, or complete your outcome. Additional costs may occur should complications develop from the surgery. Secondary surgery or hospital day-surgery charges involved with revision surgery will also be your responsibility. In signing the consent for this surgery/procedure, you acknowledge that you have been informed about its risk and consequences and accept responsibility for the clinical decisions that were made along with the financial costs of all future treatments.

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), including no surgery. 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 plastic surgeon may provide you with additional or different information which is based on all the facts in your particular case and the current 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 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.

I have read and understand this information, I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have received satisfactory answers, and I consent to the procedure and treatment described above.

Patient or person authorized to sign for patient

Date

Witness signature

Date