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**THE AUSTIN-WESTON CENTER FOR COSMETIC SURGERY
FRAXEL Re:store LASER**

INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM

Use of FRAXEL Laser for Dermatological Procedures

This consent form may contain words that you do not understand. Please ask the doctor or the staff to explain any words or information that you do not clearly understand.

You will be treated with the FRAXEL Re:store laser. The FRAXEL Re:store laser will be used for dermatological procedures requiring soft tissue coagulation. The treatment will be for the following indications:

- _____ Pigmented Lesions, specifically _____
- _____ Skin Resurfacing, specifically _____
- _____ Acne Scars, specifically _____
- _____ Surgical Scars, specifically _____
- _____ Melasma

Explanation of Procedure:

The procedure(s) requires multiple treatments over a period of several months. Photographs will be taken at your first treatment. These photos may be used for publication or presentation in a scientific journal or lecture however your identity will remain confidential. You will be asked to remove any makeup you are wearing. You will be required to complete your medical history and a clinical examination will be conducted to assess your skin type and determine if you are a good candidate for this treatment. Prior to treatment, the area to be treated will be anesthetized with a topical numbing cream. Following your treatment, you may experience swelling and redness, similar to a mild sunburn, for the first several days. Light peeling of the skin may also occur.

RISKS:

We want you to understand fully the risks involved in laser treatments so that you can make an informed decision. Although complications are infrequent, all treatments have some degree of risk. All of us at The Austin-Weston Center will use our expertise and knowledge to avoid complications in so far as we are able. If a complication does occur, we will use those same skills in an attempt to solve the problem quickly. The importance of having a highly qualified staff and the use of a certified facility cannot be overestimated.

_____Initials

Swelling and Redness:

Mild to moderate swelling and redness are normal after any laser treatment. Severe swelling and prolonged redness are rare, but treatable.

Pain and Discomfort:

Some people may feel some pain with this treatment, similar to snapping the skin with a rubber band. This is minimized by use of an anesthetic cream and a cold air blower.

Scarring:

There is a small chance of skin scarring, including abnormal, raised scars (keloids). Scarring is a possibility because of the disruption of the skin's surface. We have not seen this in our patients, but it is a possible complication.

Blistering: The laser procedure may produce heating in the upper layers of the skin resulting in steam formation. The steam may produce a separation between upper and middle layers of the skin resulting in blister formation. The blisters will go away within several days.

Bruising:

Some lasers react with the superficial capillaries and can cause small, localized bruises. These generally heal without treatment within a few days and can be covered with make-up. Should extensive bruising occur, please contact us at our office.

Bleeding:

The laser treatment may cause some pinpoint bleeding which will probably stop within a few minutes without any lasting effect. The bleeding may not reach the upper level of the skin and may result in a dark reddening of the skin. The red will darken to purple and purple-yellow and will disappear within 1-2 weeks.

Infection:

A superficial infection may require antibiotics. The first signs of an infection are persistent, localized redness, tenderness, blistering or pustules and slow healing. If a blister or bleeding is present, an infection of the wound is possible. Any blistering or bleeding must be dressed with an antibiotic ointment and covered. An infection could last 7-10 days and could lead to scarring. Please contact us at our office should any of these occur.

Incomplete Removal of Wrinkles or Irregularities:

While the Fraxel Laser is a state-of-the-art instrument, ALL wrinkles and skin irregularities may not be removed in the recommended series of treatments (in order to avoid scarring). Some areas may respond only partially or not at all to Fraxel Laser surgery. In some cases we will not be able to completely reach the desired improvement.

_____Initials

Pigment changes:

Although extremely rare, the treated area may heal with increased pigmentation (increased skin coloring or hyper-pigmentation). This occurs most often with darker colored skin and after exposure of the area to the sun. You may have experienced this type of reaction before and noticed it with minor cuts or abrasions. The treated area must be protected from exposure to the sun (sunscreen, with SPF 30 or higher, for four weeks after each treatment) to minimize the changes of too much pigmentation (increased skin coloring), however in some subjects, increased skin coloring may occur even if the area has been protected from the sun. These spots usually fade away in 3-6 months. During pregnancy, areas of increased pigmentation frequently appear spontaneously. For this reason, laser therapy is not recommended during pregnancy.

Pigment loss or hypo-pigmentation has not been seen in patients treated with this laser but is theoretically possible.

Herpes Infection:

Resurfacing of the skin by any method may stir up dormant Herpes infections whether you have had prior Herpes or not. Treatment with an antiviral agent is available - so you can be treated prophylactically (prior to resurfacing) or after resurfacing if an infection develops. Please advise us if you have a history of skin infections or sores.

Recurrence of Wrinkles:

Dynamic wrinkles (wrinkles caused by muscular action) can persist or recur.

Contact Lenses:

Laser treatment may interfere with the ability to wear contact lenses 24-48 hours after treatment because they may cause irritation by trapping topical anesthetic between your eye and the contact lens. Please be prepared to wear your glasses for the first 24-48 hours after treatment.

Delayed Improvement in Condition Treated:

In general, surface changes such as uneven pigment and skin texture will improve first and then deeper wrinkles and scars more slowly. Some of these improvements develop slowly and may not reach their full extent of improvement until 6 months or more after the final treatment.

_____Initials

HEAL:

Call us:

As always, please call our office at 703-893-6168 if you have any questions as you go through the healing process. We want it to go smoothly and for you to feel comfortable.

CONSENT:

I, _____, have read and I understand the information contained within this consent form. Further, my signature below indicates my consent to the treatment(s) described and my agreement to comply with the requirements placed on me by this consent form.

Patient Signature

Date

Witness

Date