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CONSENT FORM FOR LASER AND INTENSE PULSED LIGHT TREATMENT OF VASCULAR LESIONS

Lasers and other light sources have been used for treatment of abnormal skin blood vessels for over 20 years. The pulsed dye, ExcelV, GentleLase and Gentle Yag are effective vascular lesion lasers. Intense Pulsed Light is a non-laser light source that is also effective for treating vascular lesions. They produce an intense but gentle burst of light that heats the targeted superficial blood vessels almost instantaneously and so precisely that normal surrounding tissue is hardly affected. Thus, these light sources may improve the appearance of many lesions while leaving the surrounding skin and skin pigment intact.

The clinical names for the three most commonly treated blood vessel conditions are: telangiectasia ("broken capillaries") or spider veins; port-wine stain birthmarks; and strawberry hemangiomas. These conditions share the characteristic that they are made up of abnormal blood vessels in the skin.

Other treatment methods, including electrocautery and injections with various substances (sclerotherapy) can also be used. Unlike some other forms of treatment, vascular lesion lasers reduce the risk of scarring or changes in skin texture. Most adults tolerate even large treatments without the need for anesthesia. Use of a topical or local anesthetic may be a better option for some people or a strong compounded off label topical anesthetic may be applied to diminish discomfort.

Although treatments are effective in most cases, no guarantees can be made that a specific patient will benefit from treatment. Results of the laser surgery vary from person to person depending on the type of the lesion, size of the affected area, the color of the skin, and the depth to which these vessels extend beneath the skin's surface. Multiple treatments may be necessary to destroy vascular lesions. Most telangiectasias or spider veins require only 1 to 3 treatments, whereas port-wine stains require up to 12 treatments for significant lesional lightening.

Patients treated with the pulsed dye, or GentleLase lasers may experience blue-gray discoloration, resembling a bruise, at the treatment site. This will last from 7 to 14 days. Using new techniques with the pulsed dye laser, little if any bruising will occur after treatment. Patients treated with the Excel Vlasers will experience some temporary pink or red discoloration of the skin at or around the treatment site and may also notice some crusting. This usually fades in 1-3 days. Some patients may also experience a temporary brown discoloration of the skin for a few months following treatment.

While side effects of this procedure are minimal, even in the most experienced surgeon's hands, the following complications may rarely occur:

1. Pigmentary changes (skin lightening or darkening)
2. Skin texture changes
3. Infection
4. Incomplete removal of the lesion
5. Bruising
6. Swelling
7. Blisters and/or scarring

To minimize the chances of side effects and complications, it is important that you follow all postoperative instructions carefully. The procedure for treating my condition has been explained to me. The potential risks and benefits of the procedure, the likely results without such treatment and the available alternatives have been fully explained to me. I have received pre- and post-operative (before and after) instructions both written and verbal. I was given a chance to ask questions and all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I request performance of the procedure described above, and I agree to participate and cooperate with the physicians who direct the laser program. I understand that a Dermatology fellow may assist in my procedure under the direct supervision of the attending physician. I also agree to have photographs taken. These photographs will be used for educational purposes and may be used for publication.

Patient's Name - PLEASE PRINT

Patient's Signature

Date

I have explained the above statements to the patient and answered all questions.

Staff Signature

Date