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Department of Dermatology
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Surgical Procedures Informed Consent ***April 2016***

Please carefully review the procedures listed below. The Colorado Dermatology Institute (CDI) practitioner will explain to the patient the risks and benefits of the procedure(s) required to effectively diagnose and treat the patient's dermatologic condition prior to performing the procedure(s). If you have any questions, it is your responsibility to ask for clarification. Please do not sign the Informed Consent Signature Page if all of your questions have not been answered satisfactorily.

You are authorizing the CDI practitioner and their assistant to perform the following surgical procedure(s) as required in the treatment of your dermatologic issue.

Biopsy – this procedure is performed to further clarify the disease process microscopically. We will take a small piece of tissue and microscopically examine it. We will numb the area with lidocaine and epinephrine, take a small piece of tissue, and then control the bleeding with a variety of methods. We will then place a small amount of Vaseline on the area and likely cover it with a bandage. Typical healing time is 1-2 weeks for this procedure and keeping it moist with Vaseline and covered with a bandage is important for the best wound healing. This procedure will produce a scar.

Biopsies are not processed at CDI. They are processed for interpretation by the University of Colorado. Interpretation of tissue and determining the diagnosis is then done wither at CDI or the University, per the discretion of the provider. If you want your biopsy interpreted at a specific location by a specific doctor, please inform our staff so that we can comply with your wishes.

You give your permission to send any tissue(s) removed during the biopsy, or excision (see below), for microscopic examination and you understand that there will be an additional charge for these laboratory services.

Excisions to Include Mohs Surgery – these procedures are used to excise problematic or cancerous skin. We will numb the area with lidocaine and epinephrine. Then we will excise the necessary tissue, control the bleeding with a variety of methods, and then will likely place stitches to close the wound. We will then place a small amount of Vaseline on the area and likely cover it with a bandage. Typical healing time is 2-4 weeks for this procedure and keeping it moist with Vaseline and covered with a bandage is important for the best wound healing. This procedure will produce a scar.

Shave Excision - this procedure is performed to remove or “flatten out” tissue that we are fairly certain of the diagnosis. We will usually take the removed tissue and examine it microscopically. We will usually numb the area with lidocaine and epinephrine, take a piece of tissue, and then control the bleeding with a variety of methods. We will then place a small amount of Vaseline on the area and likely cover it with a bandage. Typical healing time is 1-2 weeks for this procedure and keeping it moist with Vaseline and covered with a bandage is important for the best wound healing. This procedure will produce a scar. You give your permission to send any tissue(s) removed during the shave excision for microscopic examination and you understand that there will be an additional charge for these laboratory services.

North Location: 8580 Scarborough Drive, Suite 225
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

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Colorado Springs, CO 80906

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Electrodessication and Curettage – this procedure is used to destroy problematic or cancerous tissue. We will numb the area with lidocaine and epinephrine, scrape and burn or freeze tissue until we are satisfied that the treatment will be effective, and then control the bleeding with a variety of methods. We will then place a small amount of Vaseline on the area and likely cover it with a bandage. Typical healing time is 2-3 weeks for this procedure and keeping it moist with Vaseline and covered with a bandage is important for the best wound healing. This procedure will produce a scar.

Liquid Nitrogen Cryosurgery – this procedure is performed to destroy tissue that is either problematic or is trying to become something else like a cancer. No numbing is usually required but there is slight discomfort associated with the procedure. This discomfort usually lasts for 10-15 minutes after the procedure. Afterward, the area is often red and can form a blister. This redness and blister usually lasts for 1-2 weeks. This procedure can produce a permanent scar as well as permanent lightening or darkening of the skin.

Intralesional Injections – this procedure is used to inject medications into a lesion. The area will be cleaned and then injected with medication. There is usually minimal pain to these procedures. Scar formation, lightening or darkening of the skin, thinning of the skin, and worsening of the process that we are treating are all potential complications. This is especially true for treating keloid scars. Please understand that any intervention on a keloid scar can make the scar worse, not better.

Intramuscular Injections – this procedure is used to deliver a steroid into your body to help control a disease process. Intramuscular kenalog or celestone injections can cause a number of side effects. These include but are not limited to increasing blood pressures to potentially dangerous levels, increasing glaucoma, elevated blood sugar values, osteonecrosis (death of bones), psychiatric disturbances, local nerve injury, interactions with other medications, infections, thinning of skin or dimpling of the area injected, pigment disturbances, and others.

Chemical Peels – this procedure is performed to try to help improve the cosmetic appearance of problematic skin. It is usually used for treating acne, increased pigmentation of the skin, or to try to give a more youthful appearance to the skin. Your face is usually cleansed and then the chemical peel is applied to the skin. Slight burning or tingling can take place while, and immediately after, its application. Afterward, the skin is usually red and irritated. This typically lasts for 1-2 weeks and then gradually improves. You will be more sensitive to the sun for at least one month after application so sun avoidance and sunscreen use is necessary. While this procedure is generally used to treat problematic skin, it can make the process we are treating worse. It can permanently scar, discolor, or adversely affect your skin. If the chemical peel gets into your eyes, it could cause potentially serious damage. Please understand that chemical peels are not covered by your insurance and that the responsibility for payment is solely yours.

Risks: I understand that there is no way to list all the potential risks of any procedure. Below are the most common risks of these procedures.

Scar: I understand that all humans heal by permanent scar formation and any procedure done to the skin can produce a permanent scar. The tissues around the procedural site often remain swollen or bruised for about one month. Scar tissue is usually red for 3-9 months or longer, then usually fades to white. The appearance of a scar usually continues to improve for 6-12 months after the procedure. UV (sunlight or tanning beds) may cause a scar to darken. Blood vessels can form around or in a scar. Scars can widen, especially if they are over active CDI Surgical Procedures muscle areas or if you are



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still growing. Scars can also heal thick (keloid or hypertrophic scar) or thin (atrophic scar). The final appearance of the scar depends on many factors. Having a cosmetically appealing scar is NOT guaranteed. If a surgical site is injured before healing is complete it may gape open and bleed, resulting in a worse scar.

Other risks include: some of the other most common risks to the above procedures include infection; bleeding; reaction to the anesthesia; pain; nerve injury resulting in no sensation or movement in the surrounding area; blood vessel injury which could cause localized death of skin and tissue; allergic reactions; or, other reactions to the surgical procedures which can be life-threatening.

I understand that no guarantee or assurance has been made as to the results of the procedure, that it may not cure the condition, and that it may make the condition worse. I also understand that CDI's practitioners will make recommendations to what they think is the best way to treat a disorder. I understand that it is my responsibility to ask for other options or for clarifications to the option presented. I understand that it is of my own free will to either accept the option presented by the CDI practitioner or to seek a second opinion. By signing the Informed Consent Signature Page, I accept this responsibility and all of the potential risks and benefits associated with the procedure. I also accept the financial responsibility to pay for the services rendered by CDI and acknowledge that if I do not pay my bill, CDI can send me to collections. Also, after healing I understand there is likely a need to have long-term check-ups, especially if precancerous or cancerous lesions have been treated.

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