

## INFORMED CONSENT FOR CONSTITUTIONAL FACIAL ACUPUNCTURE

**INSTRUCTIONS-** This is an informed consent document that has been prepared to help your acupuncturist inform you concerning facial acupuncture treatments, the risk involved, and possible alternatives. Please be advised that this is not a surgical procedure. It is important that you read this information carefully and completely. Please initial each page, indicating that you have read the page and sign the consent for facial acupuncture treatments, as proposed by your acupuncturist.

**INTRODUCTION** – An acupuncture facial treatment involves that insertion of acupuncture needles into fine lines and wrinkles on the face and neck in order to reduce the visible signs of aging. In Oriental medicine, the meridians or pathways of Qi (energy) flow throughout the entire body from the soles of the feet up to the face and head; consequently, a facial acupuncture treatment addresses the entire body constitutionally, and is not merely “cosmetic.” An acupuncture facial involves the patient in an organic, gradual process, that is customized for each individual. It is no way analogous to, or a substitution for, a surgical “face lift”. A treatment session may confine itself solely to facial acupuncture, or it may be used in conjunction with other procedures.

**BENEFITS** –Facial acupuncture can increase facial tone, decrease puffiness around the eyes, as well as bring more firmness to sagging skin, enhance the radiance of the complexion, and flesh out sunken areas. Customarily, fine wrinkles will disappear, and deeper one be reduced. As this treatment is not merely confined to the face, but incorporates the entire body and constitutional issues of health.

**ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT** –Improvement of sagging skin, wrinkles and fatty deposits may be attempted by other treatments or surgery such as a surgical facelift, chemical face peels, or liposuction. Risk and potential complications are associated with these alternative forms of treatment.

**RISKS OF AN ACUPUNCTURE FACIAL** – Every procedure involves a certain amount of risk and is important that you understand the risks involved with an acupuncture facial. An individual’s choice to undergo an acupuncture facial is based upon the comparison of the risk to potential benefit. Although the majority of patients do not experience the following complication you should discuss each of them with your acupuncturist to make sure you understand the risks, potential complications, and consequences of an acupuncture facial.

- **Bleeding:** It is possible, though very unusual that you may have bleeding. Should post-acupuncture bleeding occur, it will usually only consist of a few drops. Accumulations of blood under the skin may cause a bruise or hematoma, which will resolve itself.
- **Infection:** It is very unusual after acupuncture. Should an infection occur, additional treatment, including antibiotics, may be necessary.
- **Damage to Deeper Structures:** Rarely are deeper structures such as blood vessels and muscles damaged during the course of an acupuncture treatment. If this does occur, the injury may be temporary or permanent.
- **Asymmetry** – The human face is normally asymmetrical. Thus, there can be a variation from one side to the other in the results attained from a facial acupuncture treatment.
- **Bruising:** There is a possibility of bruising, puffiness, blood, tingling, itching, warmth, pain or other symptoms at the site of the needle.
- **Nerve Injury:** Injuries to the motor or sensory nerves rarely result from acupuncture treatments. Nerve injuries may cause temporary or permanent loss of movements and feeling. Such injuries may improve over time. Injury to sensory nerves may cause temporary or more rarely permanent numbness. Painful nerve scarring is very rare.
- **Needle Shock:** This is a rare complication of acupuncture. A cardio-vascular collapse, sudden drop of blood pressure with fainting.
- **Unsatisfactory Result:** There is a possibility of a poor result from acupuncture, and you may be disappointed with the results.
- **Allergic Reactions:** In rare cases, local allergies to topical preparations have been reported. Systemic reactions which are more serious may occur to herbs used. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.
- **Delayed Healing:** Delayed healing or disruption is a rare complication experienced by patients after the treatment. There is a greater risk for smokers, who frequently have dry, sagging skin, which does not heal as readily as that of non-smokers.

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- **Long Term Effects-** Subsequent alterations in facial appearance may occur as the result of the normal process of aging, weight loss or gain, sun exposure, or other circumstances not related to an acupuncture facial. An acupuncture facial does not arrest the aging process or produce permanent tightening of the face and neck. Future facial acupuncture maintenance treatments, or other treatments, may be necessary to maintain the result of an acupuncture facial.

**Health Insurance-** Most health insurance companies exclude coverage for an acupuncture facial and/or any complications that might occur from an acupuncture facial. Please carefully review your health insurance subscriber information pamphlet.

**Additional Care Necessary-** There are many variable conditions in addition to risk and potential complications that may influence the long term result from acupuncture facial treatments. Even though risks and complications occur infrequently, the risks cited are the ones that are particularly associated with an acupuncture facial treatment. Other complications and risks can occur but are even more uncommon. Should complications occur, other treatments may be necessary. The practice of acupuncture is not an exact science. Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee or warranty, either expressed or implied, on the results that may be obtained.

**Financial Responsibilities-** The cost of an acupuncture facial involves several charges for the services provided. The total includes fees charged by your acupuncturist, the cost of acupuncture supplies, and topical preparations. Depending on whether the cost of your acupuncture facial is covered by an insurance plan, you will be responsible for necessary copayments, deductibles, and charges not covered.

**Disclaimer:** Informed-Consent documents are used to communicate information about the proposed procedure along with disclosure of risks and alternative forms of treatment. 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 should not be considered all-inclusive in define other methods of care and risks encountered. Standards if acupuncture are determined on the basis of all the facts involved in an individual case and are subject to change as scientific knowledge and technology advance and as practice patterns evolve.

### Consent for Acupuncture Procedure or Treatment

1. I hereby authorize R. T. Sherlock Inc., Robert T. Sherlock to perform the following: acupuncture. I have received the following informed consent for acupuncture sheet:
2. I recognize that during the course of acupuncture, unforeseen conditions may necessitate different procedures than those above. I therefore authorize the above acupuncturist to perform such other procedures that are in the exercise of his or her professional judgment necessary and desirable. The authority granted under this paragraph shall include all conditions that require treatment and are not known to my acupuncturist at the time the procedure is begun.
3. I acknowledge that no guarantee has been given by anyone as to the results that may be obtained.
4. I authorize the release of my Social Security number to appropriate agencies for legal reporting and medical device registration, if applicable.
5. It has been explained to me in a way that I understand:
  - a. The above treatment or exposure to be undertaken
  - b. There may be alternative procedures or methods of treatment
  - c. There are risks to the procedure or treatment proposed

**I consent to the treatment or procedure and the above listed items. I am satisfied with the explanation.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Patient** or Authorized Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Practitioner**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date