

INFORMED-CONSENT ON THE RISKS OF NICOTINE/SMOKING AND SECONDARY SMOKE

Smoking, secondary smoke, chewing tobacco, snuff, and other nicotine containing products have been found to have an unfavorable impact on wound healing. Nicotine is a chemical that produces constriction of the blood cells which denies oxygen its place on the red blood cell. The combined effect of nicotine and carbon monoxide is deadly to the healing process. This can result in partial or complete loss of healing of the wound, skin graft, flap, or any combination of these. This can compromise the cosmetic results of the surgery. The loss of skin flaps, grafts, delayed or slow healing may result in the need for future surgery, even reconstructive surgery. Many insurance companies will not cover the cost of these, leaving these costs to you. Resuming any nicotine use, smoking, or being around secondary smoke following the surgery will cause wound healing problems. For these reasons, Dr. Jennings STRONGLY recommends that ALL tobacco and nicotine use be discontinued for a minimum of three (3) weeks prior and three (3) weeks following surgery. In some cases, failure to follow these instructions may result in cancellation of the surgery. In these situations, the procedure may be rescheduled after smoking cessation has been documented for three (3) weeks, or the procedure may be modified.

If you feel that you are unable to quit smoking, remain away from secondary smoke, or use of any nicotine products for the prescribed time, please let you physician know so that modifications can be made. However, you will be at the risk of all the complications that might result.

I acknowledge that I have received this explanation of the risks of nicotine, smoking, and secondary smoke; the restrictions of smoking, secondary smoke, or tobacco use, and agree to abide by them.

Witness

Patient

Date