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Patient Name:  
«Person\_First\_Middle\_Last»

## CONSENT FOR DEBRIDEMENT

Debridement is used to clean dead and contaminated material from your wound to aid in healing. The procedure is most often done for the following reasons:

- To remove tissue contaminated by bacteria, foreign tissue, dead cells, or crusting
- To create a neat wound edge to decrease scarring
- To aid in the healing of very severe burns or pressure sores (decubitus ulcers)
- To get a sample of tissue for testing and diagnosis

An open wound or ulcer cannot be properly evaluated until the dead tissue or foreign matter is removed. Wounds that contain necrotic and ischemic (low oxygen content) tissue take longer to close and heal. This is because necrotic tissue provides an ideal growth medium for bacteria, especially for *Bacteroides* spp. and *Clostridium perfringens* that causes the gas gangrene so feared in military medical practice. Though a wound may not necessarily be infected, the bacteria can cause inflammation and strain the body's ability to fight infection. Debridement is also used to treat pockets of pus called abscesses. Abscesses can develop into a general infection that may invade the bloodstream (sepsis) and lead to **amputation** and even death. Burned tissue or tissue exposed to corrosive substances tends to form a hard black crust, called an eschar, while deeper tissue remains moist and white, yellow and soft, or flimsy and inflamed. Eschars may also require debridement to promote healing.

Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk and it is important that you understand these risks and the possible complications associated with them. In addition, every procedure has limitations. An individual's choice to undergo a surgical procedure is based on the comparison of the risk to potential benefit. Although the majority of patients do not experience these complications, you should discuss each of them with your plastic surgeon to make sure you understand all possible consequences of skin graft surgery.

The most common risks associated with Debridement surgery are as follows:

- Infection-** Infections after surgery may occur. Should an infection occur, additional treatment including antibiotics, hospitalization, or additional surgery may be necessary.
- Bleeding-** It is possible, though unusual, to experience a bleeding episode during or after surgery. Intraoperative blood transfusions may be required. Should post-operative bleeding occur, it may require an emergency treatment to drain the accumulated blood or blood transfusion. Do not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for ten days before or after surgery, as this may increase the risk of bleeding. Non-prescription "herbs" and dietary supplements can increase the risk of surgical bleeding. Hematoma can occur at any time following injury
- Inability to Heal-** Conditions that involve disease, injuries including burns, or surgical removal of tumors can produce severe wounds. Areas of the body where there is inadequate blood supply due to injury, disease states, or the effect of radiation therapy, may not be capable of providing adequate blood supply for healing. Some wounds may need a skin grafts to close a wound and aid in healing. More involved reconstructive surgical procedures may be necessary.
- Scarring-** All surgery leaves scars, some more visible than others. Although good wound healing after a surgical procedure is expected, abnormal scars may occur within the skin and deeper tissues. Scars may be unattractive and of different color than the surrounding skin tone. Scar appearance may also vary within the same scar. Special compressive garments may be needed to help control scarring. In some cases scars may require surgical revision or treatment.

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- **Skin Sensation**- Diminished (or loss) of skin sensation may occur and not totally resolve after surgery. Injuries may occur secondary to this lack of sensation if subjected to excessive heat, cold, or physical force. Care must be given to avoid injury to these areas or complications may occur.
- **Skin Contour Irregularities**- Contour irregularities and depressions may occur after debridement surgery. Visible and palpable wrinkling or puckering of skin can occur. Residual skin irregularities at the ends of the incisions or “dog ears” are always a possibility and may require additional surgery. This may improve with time, or it can be surgically corrected.
- **Delayed Healing**- Wound disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. Scarring and inadequate healing may occur. Some areas of skin may die, requiring frequent dressing changes or further surgery to remove the non-healed tissue. **Smokers have a greater risk of skin loss and wound healing complications.**
- **Skin Discoloration / Swelling**- Some bruising and swelling normally occurs following surgery. It is possible to have these areas be either darker or lighter than surrounding skin. These changes can be permanent.
- **Surgical Anesthesia**- Both local and general anesthesia involve risk. There is the possibility of complications, injury, and even death from all forms of surgical anesthesia or sedation.
- **Damage to Deeper Structures**- There is the potential for injury to deeper structures including nerves, blood vessels, muscles, and lungs (pneumothorax) during any surgical procedure. The potential for this to occur varies according to where on the body surgery is being performed. Injury to deeper structures may be temporary or permanent.
- **Allergic Reactions**- In rare cases, local allergies to tape, suture materials and glues, blood products, topical preparations or injected agents have been reported. Serious systemic reactions including shock (anaphylaxis) may occur to drugs used during surgery and prescription medications. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.
- **Pain**- You will experience pain after your surgery. Pain of varying intensity and duration may occur and persist after surgery. Chronic pain may occur very infrequently from nerves becoming trapped in scar tissue.
- **Buried Surgical Staples / Sutures**- Sutures may spontaneously poke through the skin, become visible or produce irritation that requires removal. Additional surgery may be necessary to remove buried staples and sutures.
- **Shock**- In rare circumstances, your surgical procedure can cause severe trauma, particularly when multiple or extensive procedures are performed. Although serious complications are infrequent, infections or excessive fluid loss can lead to severe illness and even death. If surgical shock occurs, hospitalization and additional treatment would be necessary.
- **Unsatisfactory Result**- Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee or warranty expressed or implied, on the results that may be obtained. There is the possibility of a poor result from debridement surgery. This would include risks such as unacceptable visible deformities, loss of function, poor healing, wound disruption, skin and soft tissue loss, chronic pain and loss of sensation. It may be necessary to perform additional surgery to improve your results.
- **Cardiac and Pulmonary Complications**- Surgery, especially longer procedures, may be associated with the formation of, or increase in, blood clots in the venous system. Pulmonary complications may occur secondarily to both blood clots (pulmonary emboli), fat deposits (fat emboli) or partial collapse of the lungs after general anesthesia. Pulmonary and fat emboli can be life-threatening or fatal in some circumstances. Air travel, inactivity and other conditions may increase the incidence of blood clots traveling to the lungs causing a major blood clot that may result in death. It is important to discuss with your physician any past history of blood clots or swollen legs that may contribute to this condition. Cardiac complications are a risk

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with any surgery and anesthesia, even in patients without symptoms. If you experience shortness of breath, chest pains, or unusual heart beats, seek medical attention immediately. Should any of these complications occur, you may require hospitalization and additional treatment.

### **COVID-19 Infection:**

If you were to become symptomatic with a COVID-19 infection during your recovery, it could increase your morbidity/mortality and complication rate. There are still many unknowns, and recommendations about COVID-19 do change rapidly. Please follow the updated local health recommendations regarding COVID-19 to protect yourselves and others on: [www.denvergov.org/Government/COVID-19-Information](http://www.denvergov.org/Government/COVID-19-Information).

By signing this consent, I understand I am opting for an elective treatment/procedure/surgery that is not urgent and may not be medically necessary. I understand that possible exposure to COVID-19 before/during/after my treatment/procedure/surgery may result in: a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, extended quarantine/self-isolation, additional tests, emergency room visits or hospitalization that may require medical therapy, Intensive Care treatment, possible need for short or long-term intubation/ventilator support, risk of death, and possible additional risks which may not currently be known at this time.

### **Patient Compliance:**

Follow all physician instructions carefully; this is essential for the success of your outcome. It is important that the surgical incisions are not subjected to excessive force, swelling, abrasion, or motion during the time of healing. Personal and vocational activities must be restricted. Protective dressings and drains should not be removed unless instructed by your plastic surgeon. Successful post-operative results depend on both surgery and subsequent care. Physical activity that increases your pulse or heart rate may cause bruising, swelling, fluid accumulation around implants and the need for return to surgery. It is wise to refrain from intimate physical activities after surgery until your physician states it is safe. It is important that you participate in follow-up care, return for aftercare, and promote your recovery after surgery.

### **DISCLAIMER**

Informed-consent documents are used to communicate information about the proposed surgical treatment of a disease or condition along with disclosure of risks and alternative forms of treatment(s), including no surgery. 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 documents should not be considered all-inclusive in defining other methods of care and risks encountered. Your plastic surgeon may provide you with additional or different information that is based on all the facts in your particular case and the current state of medical knowledge.

Informed-consent documents are not intended to define or serve as the standard of medical care. Standards of medical care are determined on the basis of all of the facts involved in an individual case and are subject to change as scientific knowledge and technology advance and as practice patterns evolve.

**It is important that you read the above information carefully and have all of your questions answered before signing the following consent.**

Medicine is not an exact science, so no guarantees can be made regarding complications or outcome. We do everything possible to ensure your safety, and strive for the best result in every case. We hope that you will also do your part by following your post-operative instructions, using good judgment and letting us know if there are any problems.

Please ask any questions you may have regarding the surgery or potential risks prior to signing this form. Your signature means that you have had a chance to read and discuss the common risks associated with

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skin graft surgery, and that you agree to proceed. A separate consent form from the hospital will also need to be signed for the medical record.

I CONSENT TO THE TREATMENT OF DEBRIDEMENT SURGERY AND I HAVE READ THE ABOVE LISTED ITEMS. I AM SATISFIED WITH THE INFORMED CONSENT PROCESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient or Person Authorized to Sign for Patient

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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