Specific Risks of Brow Lift

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 most patients do not experience these complications, you should discuss them with your plastic surgeon at The Aesthetic Center by Kaiser Permanente to make sure you understand the possible risks of brow lift surgery.

Bleeding
It is possible, though unusual to experience a bleeding episode during or after surgery. Should post-operative bleeding occur, it may require additional emergency treatment to drain accumulated blood (hematoma) or require a blood transfusion. Do not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for ten days before surgery, as this may contribute to a greater risk of bleeding. Non-prescription "herbs" and dietary supplements can increase the risk of surgical bleeding. Accumulations of blood under the skin and scalp may delay healing and cause scarring.

Infection
Infection is unusual after surgery. Should an infection occur, additional treatment including antibiotics or additional surgery may be necessary.

Change in Skin Sensation
Diminished (or loss) of skin sensation in the face and scalp area may not totally resolve after Brow Lift surgery. Chronic itching sensations can occur within the scalp and brow following a Brow Lift.

Skin Contour Irregularities
Contour irregularities, depressions and wrinkling of the skin may occur after a Brow Lift.

Scarring
All surgery leaves scars, some more visible than others. Although good wound healing after a surgical procedure is expected, abnormal scars may occur both within the skin and in the deeper tissues. Scars may be unattractive and of different color than the surrounding skin. Hair loss near the scar may make it more visible. There is the possibility of visible marks from sutures used to close the wound. Additional treatments including surgery may be needed to treat scarring.

Change in Surgical Approach for Brow Lift
In some situations, depending on factors discovered only at the time of surgery, your surgeon may have to make changes in surgical technique and approach to the Brow Lift procedure. This may require changing from an endoscopic (closed) procedure to a standard (open) Brow Lift.

Surgical Anesthesia
Both local and general anesthesia involves risk. There is the possibility of complications, injury, and even death from all forms of surgical anesthesia or sedation.

Nerve injury
Motor and sensory nerves may be injured during a Brow Lift operation. Weakness or loss of facial movements in the forehead or upper eyebrow resulting in an uneven appearance may occur after surgery. Most individuals will notice a return of motor function; permanent weakness is rare. Injury may also occur to the sensory nerves of the forehead, scalp and temple regions. Diminished sensation may normally occur in the scalp region after a Brow Lift surgery. Permanent numbness or painful nerve scarring is rare, but may occur.

Damage to Deeper Structures
Deeper structures such as the eye, nerves, skull bone, blood vessels and muscles may be damaged during the course of surgery. The potential for this to occur varies with the type of Brow Lift procedure performed. Injury to deeper structures may be temporary or permanent.

Asymmetry
The human face is normally asymmetrical. There can be a variation from one side to the other in the results obtained from a Brow Lift procedure.

Delayed Healing
Wound disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. Some areas of the brow or scalp may heal abnormally or slowly. Frequent dressing changes or further surgery to remove the non-healed tissue may be required.

Seroma
Fluid accumulations infrequently occur beneath the skin. Should this problem occur, it may require additional procedures for drainage of the fluid.