

## Specific Risks of Facelift and Neck 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 facelift and neck lift.

### Hair Loss

Hair loss may occur in areas of the face where the skin was elevated during surgery. The most common locations are in the temple area and behind your ears.

### Nerve Injury

Motor and sensory nerves may be injured during a facelift. Weakness or loss of facial movements may occur after a facelift. Nerve injuries may cause temporary or permanent loss of facial movements and feeling. Such injuries may improve over time. Additional surgical procedures such as nerve repair, grafting or transfer may be required should you have a nerve injury. Injury to sensory nerves of the face, neck and ear regions may cause temporary or more rarely permanent numbness. Painful nerve scarring is very rare.

### Use Fibrin Sealants "Tissue Glue" During Rhytidectomy Advisory

Fibrin sealants (from heat-treated human blood components to inactivate virus transmission) may be used to hold tissue layers together at surgery and to diminish post-operative bruising following a facelift. Sealants have been carefully produced from screened donor blood plasma for hepatitis, syphilis, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). These products have been used safely for many years as sealants in cardiovascular and general surgery. This product helps diminish surgical bleeding and adheres layers of tissue together.

### Parotid Fistula

The parotid gland rests at the angle of your jaw and produces saliva. In deeper facelifts, the gland can be opened resulting in persistent leakage of this saliva into the facelift surgery site. This is referred to as a salivary or parotid fistula. A simple test of the fluid called an Amylase will determine if a salivary or parotid fistula is present. Additional non-surgical treatment such as Botox or surgical treatment may be required to close a salivary or parotid fistula.

### Previous Surgical Scars

The presence of surgical scars from previous facial surgery may limit the amount of skin tightening that can be performed.

### Asymmetry

Symmetrical body appearance may not result after surgery. Factors such as skin tone, fatty deposits, skeletal prominence, and muscle tone may contribute to normal asymmetry in body features. Most patients have differences between the right and left side of their faces before any surgery is performed. Additional surgery may be necessary to attempt to diminish asymmetry.

### Seroma

Infrequently, fluid may accumulate between the skin and the underlying tissues following surgery, trauma or vigorous exercise. Should this problem occur, it may require additional procedures for fluid drainage. A seroma should be addressed to prevent an unfavorable outcome. Should this problem occur, notify your surgeon as additional procedures for drainage of fluid may be required. A seroma following a facelift usually resolves with repeated aspiration.

### Recurrence of Signs of Aging/ Redo-Facelift

A facelift is a temporary measure to improve the visible signs of aging. The exact duration or longevity of your facelift can be dependent upon many factors including your bone structure, weight gain/ loss, etc. as well as the technique utilized to perform your facelift. The facelift cannot stop the process of aging. It can improve the most visible signs of aging by tightening deeper structures, re-draping the skin of face and neck, and removing selected areas of fat if necessary.

### Distortion of Anatomic Landmarks

There is the inherent risk of distortion of the hairline, side burns, earlobes, along with the shape of the face, eyes, and neck during a face/neck lift procedure. These may be permanent, and may require further surgeries to improve.