

# SIEGEL

FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY

## Facelift / Neck Lift

### RISKS OF SURGERY

Facelift surgery is generally considered safe; however, like any surgical procedure, it has certain complications and risks. Complications may arise from both known and unforeseen factors. Each patient is unique, with variations in skin texture, tissue, circulation, healing processes, and reactions to anesthesia, which means there can be no guarantees regarding outcomes or potential complications. That said, the likelihood of experiencing an adverse effect or complication can be minimized by choosing a qualified and experienced Facelift specialist, like Dr. Siegel.

Your surgery will be conducted with the utmost care and safety to achieve optimal results and support a smooth and speedy recovery. The following complications have been documented in medical literature. They are presented here to inform you, not to create fear, but to enhance your understanding of the surgical process.

- **Hematoma-** A hematoma is a swelling or mass of blood caused by a break or tear in a blood vessel. The incidence is 0.7% for females and 7% for males. Hematomas can vary in size; smaller ones can be monitored, while larger ones may require surgical intervention. It is crucial to follow pre- and post-surgical instructions to reduce the risk of developing a hematoma.
- **Infection-** Infections are exceedingly uncommon, occurring in less than 1% of cases, despite the proximity of hair around incision sites.
- **Hair Loss-** Temporary hair loss around the temple area and behind the ear occurs in approximately 2.8% of cases. The hair typically regrows within several months. Male patients

should be aware that the hairless area in front of the ear may narrow, and changes to the beard pattern may necessitate shaving behind the ear.

- **Pigmentation**- Discoloration and bruising can occur at the incision sites due to normal or pathological pigment deposits. Normal bruising usually resolves within two to three weeks. Patients with darker complexions should be cognizant of the risk of residual brown pigmentation.
- **Edema (Swelling)**- Swelling is a normal response following facelift surgery and usually lasts for two to three weeks. Prolonged swelling is unusual and may require a medical evaluation to determine the cause.
- **Nerve Injury**- Injury to the nerves can lead to weakness in the facial muscles responsible for movements such as eye closure, raising the eyebrows, and mouth movement. This occurs in approximately 1% of cases. While nerve function usually returns to normal within weeks to months, some instances may result in persistent or permanent lack of movement.
- **Pain or Numbness**- Pain or numbness, typically around the earlobes or ears, occurs in about 2.5% of patients. Significant post-operative pain is uncommon, but if it occurs—especially if localized to one side—it should be investigated.
- **Keloid Scarring**—Some patients may experience poor healing, which leads to visible and sensitive scarring along the incision lines.
- **Wound Separation**- This typically occurs along the suture lines after suture removal.
- **Submental Depression**: -Fat removal from the area under the chin may result in some irregularities or depressions.
- **Ear Deformities**- Incisions around the ears may heal with variable scarring, potentially distorting the earlobe, which may require a second surgery.
- **Skin Slough**—Poor healing can lead to scar tissue formation, which is often associated with hematomas or infections. This is more commonly seen in smokers.
- **Recurrent Laxity**- In rare cases, tissues may drop back to their pre-surgery position requiring a “tuck up”

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns regarding these potential complications.