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PATIENT INFORMED CONSENT - EXCIMER LASER

Excimer laser treatments utilize ultraviolet (UVB) light to treat various skin diseases including psoriasis and vitiligo. You will be exposed to this high energy UV light for a varying length of time. Though not a cure, this treatment can effectively control or improve your condition. Patients have used this treatment successfully for many years and often are able to maintain clearance of improved skin over extended periods of time. The excimer laser is a form of UVB phototherapy that selectively emits light rays, allowing the beneficial rays to penetrate the skin while eliminating those that may cause burning. Clinical studies suggest that excimer laser treatments may clear psoriasis or vitiligo in the range of about 4-10 treatments, however total number of treatments and clearing time will vary by patient and condition. Most patients initially undergo 2 treatments per week. Though not all patients will experience total clearance, some psoriasis lesions may remain clear for some time without additional treatments.

Expected benefits of the excimer laser are:

- Improvement of existing lesions and depigmented areas
- Reduction of new lesions and depigmented areas
- Remission: many cases show near total clearing, although the duration of the remission varies with each patient and maintenance may be required
- Only affected areas are treated - healthy skin is avoided

Risks and side effects of the excimer laser:

- The most common side effect is a "sunburn" which may occur at any time during treatment. It is very important to disclose all medications before undergoing treatment, as certain medications may increase photosensitivity and promote burning
- In rare cases, a blistering sunburn-type reaction can occur
- Increased hyperpigmentation may occur, especially after blistering sunburn-type reactions
- As with any form of UV exposure, an increased incidence of skin cancer may occur later in some patients
- Treatments may cause dryness and itching
- Treatments can age the skin over time and may increase freckling or hyperpigmentation
- UV rays may damage the eyes and increase risk of cataracts; protective eyewear will be provided and must be worn at all times during treatment

The procedure, as well as its potential risks and benefits, have been explained to my satisfaction. I have had all my questions answered, and I freely consent to the proposed treatment. I realize these treatments are not a cure for my skin disorder, and that I may need maintenance treatments.

The nursing staff will have you sign the electronic consent form once you are brought back to your room. Feel free to ask any questions at that time.