

KELOID (HYPERTROPHIC SCAR)

Keloids and hypertrophic scars are greatly enlarged scar tissue that project above the skin surface. Skin heals by formation of scar tissue, which at first is often red and somewhat prominent. As the months pass, a scar usually becomes flat. Unfortunately scars may enlarge to form firm smooth hard growths called keloids or hypertrophic scars.

No one knows exactly why keloids form. While most patients never form keloids, others develop them after minor injuries and even after insect bites or pimples. Keloids may form on any part of the body although the upper chest and upper back are especially prone to keloid formation. Some patients develop keloids after having their ears pierced. Dark skin persons form keloids more easily than light skin persons.

Fortunately keloids are only a cosmetic nuisance and never become malignant or affect your internal health.

There is no magic cure for keloids. Surgical removal of the keloid usually results in a second keloid even worse than the first. The best treatment is to inject a long acting cortisone into the keloid itself. After the injection the keloid usually becomes less noticeable and flattens in one to two months. The injection can be repeated after two or three months if necessary.

Another treatment is the application of a special silicon gel. This is left over the keloid for many weeks to even months. This treatment often helps with flattening the keloid significantly.

Normally keloids can be helped but not taken away completely. If you have any other questions regarding this problem, please do not hesitate to ask before you leave the office.