

What is Liposuction?

Liposuction is the removal of deposits of excess fat by suction with specialized surgical equipment.

How is it done?

Treatment time will vary depending on the size of the area and the amount of fat being removed. Liposuction may be performed under a local anesthesia which numbs the affected areas, usually combined with intravenous sedation. For more extensive procedures a general anesthesia may be used. During the procedure the surgeon will insert a narrow tube called a cannula through a tiny incision. The cannula is pushed and pulled through the fat layer breaking up the fat cells and suctioning them out. Surgeons may use a "dry" technique, a "tumescent" technique that introduces large amounts of fluid. After surgery, you will be required to wear a supportive corset or pressure bandages around the treated areas.

Why is it done?

Liposuction gives added contour and definition to treated areas on the ankles, calves, thighs, buttocks, and abdomen, as well as the arms, neck and under the chin. The procedure may also be part of an operation to treat lipomas (benign (non-cancerous) tumors of fat), gynecomastia (fatty breast development in men), and for adjusting the shape of breasts after reconstructive surgery.

Risks & complications

Complications specific to liposuction are infrequent and usually minor. However, as with any surgery, there are risks, including the possibility of:

- Bleeding under the skin (hematoma) after surgery.
- Scars. In most cases scarring is minimal, though lumpy red scars can form in some people.
- Infection, though unusual after this type of surgery, may occur and require antibiotic treatment.
- Irregularities in skin contour and depressions in the skin may occur.
- With wet liposuction pulmonary edema (fluid build up in the lungs) can occur as a result of the fluid that is injected and needs immediate treatment. The fluid used can also cause allergic reactions in some patients.
- Reaction to the anesthesia.

It is impossible to guarantee symmetrical body appearance and smooth skin after liposuction surgery. Some numbness can occur and there may be significant bruising and swelling which may take several months to settle completely.

Risks can be reduced by following the surgeon's instructions before and after surgery.

Alternatives

The surgeon may discuss alternative approaches to the Liposuction procedure, for example the "wet technique". However, the main alternative to Lipoplasty is simply to leave the fat deposits as they are. Diet and exercise regimens may be of benefit in the overall reduction of

excess body fat. Direct removal of excess skin may be needed in addition to liposuction treatment in some patients.

Candidate eligibility

The best candidates for Liposuction surgery are individuals of relatively normal weight who have excess fat in particular areas. Having firm, elastic skin will result in a better final contour after the liposuction. The surgeon will make the final determination of each patient's eligibility for the procedure after an examination and consultation with the patient.

Your Consultation

Your physician consultation is very important, because it is the moment when you can discuss your medical issues face-to-face with your doctor. If you are traveling from overseas, this will be the first time you meet with your doctor so it critical that he/she understands:

- Your medical needs
- Your expectations
- Your medical history

Most people have a good idea of what the procedure or outcome they want ("I want smaller breasts"), and the physician's responsibility is to listen and then explain what can be done, the procedures or techniques to achieve your objectives, and the risks and costs involved.

You will have a lot of questions to ask, so preparation is key to make the most of your consultation. We suggest that you:

- Write your questions down to make sure you remember them
- Come with your medical history/survey already completed
- Bring any photos or visuals aids that will help explain what it is you want or expect from treatment

Please note that this information should be used only as a guide to your treatment. All specifics will be discussed with your Physician at your consultation.