Suction Assisted Lipectomy

Information
This is a patient information document that has been prepared to help inform you concerning suction assisted lipectomy ("liposuction") surgery, its risks and alternative treatment. It is important that you read this information carefully and completely. Please initial and date each page, indicating that you have read the page.

Introduction
Suction assisted lipectomy is a surgical technique to remove unwanted deposits of fat from specific areas of the body, including the face, neck, upper arms, trunk, abdomen, buttocks, hips, thighs, knees, calves or ankles. Liposuction is not a substitute for weight reduction but a method for removing localized deposits of fatty tissue that do not respond to diet or exercise. Suction assisted lipectomy may be performed as a primary procedure for body contouring or combined with other surgical techniques such as facelift, abdominoplasty or thigh lift procedures to tighten loose skin and supporting structures.

The best candidates for liposuction are individuals of relatively normal weight who have excess fat in particular body areas. Having firm, elastic skin will result in a better final contour after liposuction. Hanging skin will not reshape itself to the new contours and may require additional surgical techniques to remove and tighten excess skin. Body contour irregularities due to structures other than fat cannot be improved by suction lipectomy. Suction assisted lipectomy by itself will not improve areas of dimpled skin known as “cellulite.”

There are a variety of different techniques used by plastic surgeons for suction assisted lipectomy and care following surgery.

Alternative Treatment
Alternative forms of management include not treating the areas of fatty deposits. Diet and exercise regimens may be of benefit in all the overall reduction of excess body fat. Direct removal of excess skin and fatty tissue may be necessary in addition to suction assisted lipectomy in some patients. Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative forms of treatment that involve surgery.

Risks of Suction Assisted Lipectomy Surgery
Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk and it is important that you understand the risks involved with suction assisted lipectomy. An individual’s choice to undergo a surgical procedure is based on the comparison of risks and potential benefit. Although the majority of patients do not experience these complications, you should discuss each of them to make sure you understand the risks, potential complications and consequences of suction assisted lipectomy.

Patient Initials: __________
Patient Selection – Individuals with poor skin tone, medical problems, obesity or unrealistic expectations may not be candidates for suction assisted lipectomy.

Bleeding – It is possible, though unusual, to have a bleeding episode during or after surgery. Should postoperative bleeding occur, it may require emergency treatment to drain accumulated blood or blood transfusions. Do not take aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for ten days before surgery, as this may increase the risk of bleeding.

Infection – An infection is quite unusual after this type of surgery. Should an infection occur, treatment including antibiotics or additional surgery may be necessary.

Change in skin sensation – Temporary changes in skin sensation after suction assisted lipectomy commonly occur and usually resolve. Diminished (or complete loss of skin sensation) infrequently occurs and may not totally resolve.

Skin Scarring – Although good wound healing after a surgical procedure is expected, abnormal scars may occur within the skin and deeper tissues. In rare cases, abnormal scars may result. Scars may be unattractive and of different color than surrounding skin. Additional treatments including surgery may not totally resolve.

Skin Contour Irregularities – Contour irregularities and depression in the skin may occur after suction assisted lipectomy. Visible and palpable wrinkling of the skin can occur. Additional treatments including surgery may be necessary to treat skin contour irregularities following suction assisted lipectomy.

Asymmetry – Symmetrical body appearance may not result from suction assisted lipectomy surgery. Factors such as skin tone, bony prominence and muscle tone may contribute to normal asymmetry in body features.

Surgical Shock – In rare circumstances, this procedure can cause severe trauma, particularly when multiple or extensive areas are suctioned at one time. Although serious complications are infrequent, infections or excessive fluid loss can lead to severe illness and even death. Should surgical shock occur after suction assisted lipectomy, hospitalization and additional treatment would be necessary.

Pulmonary Complications – Fat embolism syndrome occurs when fat droplets are trapped in the lungs. This is a very rare and possibly fatal complication of suction assisted lipectomy. Should fat embolism or excessive fluid loss can lead to severe illness and even death. Should surgical shock occur after suction assisted lipectomy, hospitalization and additional treatment would be necessary.

Skin Loss – Skin loss is rare after suction assisted lipectomy. Additional treatments including surgery may be necessary.

Seroma – Fluid accumulations infrequently occur in areas where suction assisted lipectomy has been performed. Additional treatment or surgery to drain accumulations of fluid may be necessary.

Patient Initials: __________

Suction Assisted Lipectomy, 2
Revised 7/13/2016
Long-term Effects – Subsequent alterations in body contour may occur as the result of aging, weight loss or gain, pregnancy or other circumstances not related to suction assisted lipectomy.

Allergic Reactions – In rare cases, local allergies to tape, suture material or topical preparations have been reported. Systemic reactions which are more serious may occur to drugs used during surgery and prescription medicines. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.

Other – You may be disappointed with the results of surgery. Infrequently, it is necessary to preform additional surgery to improve your results.

Surgical Anesthesia – Both local and general anesthesia involve risk. There is the possibility of complications, injury and even death from all forms of surgical anesthesia or sedation.

Health Insurance
Most health insurance companies exclude coverage for cosmetic surgical operations such as the suction assisted lipectomy or any complications that might occur from surgery. Please carefully review your own health insurance subscriber information pamphlet.

Additional Surgery
There are many conditions that influence the risks, potential surgical complications and long-term result from suction assisted lipectomy. Even though risks and complications occur infrequently, the risks cited are particularly associated with suction assisted lipectomy. Other complications and risks occur but are more uncommon. Should complications occur, additional surgery or other treatments may be necessary. The practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science. Although good results are expected, there cannot be any guarantee or warranty expressed or implied, on the results that may be obtained.

Financial Responsibilities
The cost of surgery involves several charges for the services provided. The total included fees charged by your surgeon, anesthesia, laboratory test, and outpatient surgery charges, depending on where the surgery is performed. Additional cost may occur should complications develop from the surgery. Surgeon fees or outpatient surgery charges involved with revisional surgery would also be your responsibility.

Disclaimer
This document is used to communicate information about the proposed surgical treatment of a disease or condition along with disclosure to risks and alternative forms of treatment(s).

This document should not be considered all-inclusive in defining other methods of care and risks encountered. Your plastic surgeon may provide you with additional or different information which is based on all the facts in your particular case and state of medical knowledge.

It is important that you read the above information carefully and have all your questions answered before signing any surgical consent.

Patient Initials: __________