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INFORMED CONSENT – LIPOSUCTION (Suction-Assisted Lipectomy Surgery)

INSTRUCTIONS

This is an informed-consent document that has been prepared to help inform you concerning liposuction surgery, its risks and alternative treatment.

It is important that you read this information carefully and completely. Please initial each page, indicating that you have read the page and sign the consent for surgery as proposed by your plastic surgeon and agreed upon by you.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Liposuction is a surgical technique to remove unwanted deposits of fat from specific areas of the body, including the face and neck, upper arms, trunk, abdomen, buttocks, hips and thighs, and the knees, calves and ankles. This 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. Liposuction 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.

Having firm, elastic skin will result in a better final contour after liposuction. Skin that has diminished tone due to stretch marks, weight loss, or natural aging 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 this technique. Liposuction by itself will not improve areas of dimpled skin known as “cellulite.”

Patient Initials

Suction-assisted lipectomy surgery is performed by using a hollow metal surgical instrument known as a cannula that is inserted through small skin incision(s) and is passed back and forth through the area of fatty deposit. The cannula is attached to a vacuum source, which provides the suction needed to remove the fatty tissue.

There are a variety of different techniques used by plastic surgeons for liposuction and care following surgery. Liposuction may be performed under local or general anesthesia depending on the area to be treated, patient's wish and surgeon's recommendation.

Tumescent liposuction technique involves the infiltration of fluid containing dilute local anesthetic and epinephrine into areas of fatty deposits. This technique can reduce discomfort at the time of surgery, blood loss, and post-operative bruising. Support garments and dressings are worn to control swelling and promote healing. Your surgeon may recommend that you make arrangements to donate a unit of your own blood that would be used if a blood transfusion were necessary after surgery.

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS

Alternative forms of management consist of not treating the areas of fatty deposits. Diet and exercise regimens may be of benefit in the overall reduction of excess body fat. Direct removal of excess skin and fatty tissue may be necessary in addition to liposuction in some patients. Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative surgical forms of treatment.

RISKS OF LIPOSUCTION SURGERY

Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk and it is important that you understand these risks and the possible complications associated with them. In addition, every procedure has limitations. An individual's choice to undergo a surgical procedure is based on the comparison of the risk to potential benefit. Although the majority of patients do not experience these complications, you should discuss each of them with your plastic surgeon to make sure you completely understand all possible consequences of liposuction

Patient selection – Individuals with poor skin tone, medical problems, obesity, or unrealistic expectations may not be candidates for liposuction.

Patient Initials

Bleeding – It is possible, though unusual, to have a bleeding episode during or after surgery. Should post-operative bleeding occur, it may require emergency treatment to drain accumulated blood or require a blood transfusion. Do not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for seven 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.

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 a different color than surrounding skin. Additional treatments, including surgery, may be needed to treat abnormal scarring.

Change in skin sensation – A temporary decrease in skin sensation after liposuction may occur. This usually resolves over a period of time. Diminished (or complete loss of skin sensation) infrequently occurs and may not totally resolve.

Skin discoloration/swelling – Skin discoloration and swelling normally occurs following liposuction. In rare situations, swelling and skin discoloration may persist for long periods of time. Permanent skin discoloration is rare.

Skin contour irregularities – Contour irregularities and depressions in the skin may occur after liposuction. Visible and palpable wrinkling of skin can occur. Additional treatments including surgery may be necessary to treat skin contour irregularities following liposuction.

Asymmetry – It may not be possible to achieve symmetrical body appearance from liposuction surgery. Factors such as skin tone, bony prominence, and muscle tone may contribute to normal asymmetry in body features.

SEROMA – Fluid accumulations infrequently occur in areas where liposuction has been performed. Additional treatments or surgery to drain accumulations of fluid may be necessary.

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 liposuction.

TUMESCENT LIPOSUCTION – There is the possibility that large volumes of fluid containing dilute local anesthetic drugs and epinephrine that is injected into fatty deposits during surgery may contribute to fluid overload or systemic reaction to these medications. Additional treatment including hospitalization may be necessary.

Patient Initials

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

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

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

Surgical shock – In rare circumstances, liposuction 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 liposuction, 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 other pulmonary complications occur, additional treatment including hospitalization may be necessary.

Skin loss – Skin loss is very rare after liposuction. Additional treatments including surgery may be necessary.

Chronic pain – Chronic pain and discomfort following liposuction is very rare

Patient to Sign

Date _____ Witness _____