



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
PLASTIC SURGEONS®

# Informed Consent

## **INCLUDES:**

LIPOSUCTION

ULTRASOUND ASSISTED LIPOSUCTION (UAL)

WATER ASSISTED LIPOSUCTION (WAL)

POWER ASSISTED LIPOSUCTION (PAL)

LASER ASSISTED LIPOSUCTION (LAL)

VASER LIPOSUCTION



**INSTRUCTIONS**

This document is about informed consent. It will tell you about liposuction surgery. It will outline the risks and other treatment options.

It is important that you read the whole document carefully. Please initial each page. Doing so means you have read the page. Signing the consent agreement means that you agree to the surgery that you have talked about with your plastic surgeon.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

In liposuction, fat is removed from the body. It can be done to the face and neck, upper arms, trunk, abdomen, buttocks, hips and thighs, knees, calves, and ankles. It is not meant to reduce weight. It removes fat that does not go away with diet or exercise. Liposuction can be done alone to shape the body or with other surgeries, like a facelift, abdominoplasty, or thigh lift, to tighten any loose skin and the organs under it.

Liposuction works for people of normal weight but have some extra fat. If you have firm, elastic skin, you will have better results. Skin that is soft and thin from stretch marks, weight loss, or natural aging will not reshape as well. You may need more surgeries to remove and tighten extra skin. Liposuction does not fix uneven spots in your body that are not related to fat. Liposuction alone does not fix dimpled skin or “cellulite.”

**Liposuction (also called Suction-assisted lipectomy) is surgery.** Your surgeon will use a hollow metal tool (called a cannula). It will enter your body through a small cut in your skin. It will be moved over the fat. The cannula is connected to a vacuum, and the suction removes the fat.

In some situations, a special cannula may be used that emits ultrasonic energy to break down fatty deposits. This technique is known as **ultrasound-assisted lipectomy or Vaser liposuction**. Depending on your needs, your surgeon may recommend suction- assisted lipectomy alone, or in combination with ultrasound-assisted lipectomy.

Plastic surgeons use many methods of liposuction and care after surgery. Liposuction can be done under local, sedation, or general anesthesia. **Tumescent liposuction** uses a mixture of watered-down local anesthetic and epinephrine in the fat areas. This can reduce discomfort, blood loss, and bruising during and after the surgery.

You should wear compression clothing to control swelling and heal better.

**ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS**

There are other ways of dealing with the extra fat. You can choose not to have the surgery to remove the fat. Diet and exercise may help you lose weight and improve your shape. Your surgeon may need to remove the extra skin and fat along with a liposuction. You may also want to think about going in for heating or cooling therapy to reduce the fat. These treatments do not involve surgery. You can talk to your doctor about deoxycholic acid. It breaks down and absorbs fat. All alternate surgeries have risks and possible problems.

**RISKS OF LIPOSUCTION SURGERY**

Every surgery has risks. It is important that you understand the risks and the possible problems that can result from them. All procedures have limits. Choosing to have a surgery means comparing the risks and benefits. Most patients do not face problems, but you should talk about them with your plastic surgeon. Make sure you understand all possible outcomes of liposuction.



## **SPECIFIC RISKS OF LIPOSUCTION SURGERY**

### **Patient Selection:**

If you are obese or have soft or thin skin, medical problems, the wrong idea about what the surgery can do, then liposuction may not be right for you.

### **Liposuction in General:**

When the surgeon injects tumescent fluid (watered-down local anesthesia and epinephrine) into the fat, it may lead to fluid overload. You may have a systemic reaction to these medications. You may need more treatment and spend more time in the hospital.

### **Ultrasound-, VASER-, & Laser-Assisted Lipectomy:**

These techniques have the risks listed above and the following risks:

#### **Burns:**

You may get a burn, and the tissue may get damaged where the cannula enters through the cut in your skin or if the cannula touches of the area under the skin for a long time. If you get burned, you may need more surgery.

#### **Cannula Breakage:**

The ultrasonic energy that the cannula makes can break the tool. This is unpredictable. If it happens, you may need more surgery.

#### **Unknown Risks:**

Doctors do not know how tissue and organs react over time to quick bursts of strong ultrasonic energy. In the future, scientists may find that there are risks to getting liposuction with ultrasound.

### **Damage to Structures:**

You may get injured around the area where the liposuction is done. The surgery may cause problems in your blood vessels and nerves. If you have it done around your belly, the surgery could damage your bowel, bladder, or abs. If you have it done around your chest, one of your lungs could collapse.

**Bleeding:** It is possible, though unusual, to experience a bleeding episode during or after surgery. Should post-operative bleeding occur, it may require emergency treatment to drain accumulated blood or you may require a blood transfusion, though such occurrences are rare. Increased activity too soon after surgery can lead to increased chance of bleeding and additional surgery. It is important to follow postoperative instructions and limit exercise and strenuous activity for the instructed time. Do not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for at least ten days before or after surgery, as this may increase the risk of bleeding. Non-prescription “herbs” and dietary supplements can increase the risk of surgical bleeding. Hematoma can occur at any time, usually in the first three weeks following injury to the operative area. If blood transfusions are necessary to treat blood loss, there is the risk of blood-related infections such as hepatitis and HIV (AIDS). Heparin medications that are used to prevent blood clots in veins can produce bleeding and decreased blood platelets.

**Allergic Reactions:** In rare cases, local allergies to tape, suture material and glues, blood products, topical preparations or injected agents have been reported. Serious systemic reactions including shock



(anaphylaxis) may occur in response to drugs used during surgery and prescription medicines. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.

**Asymmetry:** Symmetrical body appearance may not result after surgery. Factors such as skin tone, fatty deposits, skeletal prominence, and muscle tone may contribute to normal asymmetry in body features. Most patients have differences between the right and left side of their bodies before any surgery is performed. Additional surgery may be necessary to attempt to diminish asymmetry.

**Surgical Wetting Solutions:** 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.

**Seroma:** Infrequently, fluid may accumulate between the skin and the underlying tissues following surgery, trauma or vigorous exercise. Should this problem occur, it may require additional procedures for drainage of fluid.

### **DISCLAIMER**

Informed consent documents give you information about a surgery you are considering. These documents explain the risks of that surgery. They also discuss other treatment options, including not having surgery. However, informed consent documents can't cover everything. Your plastic surgeon may give you more or different information. This may be based on the facts of your case.

Informed consent documents are not meant to define or serve as the standard of medical care. Standards of medical care are determined based on the facts involved in an individual case. They may change with advances in science and technology. They can also change with the way doctors practice medicine.

**It is important that you read the above information carefully and get all your questions answered before signing the consent agreement on the next page.**



## CONSENT FOR PROCEDURE OR TREATMENT

1. I permit Dr. Siamak Agha, Dr. Lee Pu, and the doctor’s assistants to perform the **Liposuction, Liposculpting, Lipo-etching, or Vaser Liposuction Surgery**.
2. I got the information sheet on Liposuction Surgery.
3. I understand that, during the surgery, an unexpected situation may require a different medical procedure than the surgery listed above. I permit the doctor listed above, the assistants and/or designees to provide any treatment that my doctor thinks is needed or helpful. My permission includes all treatments that my doctor does not plan to do at the start of the surgery.
4. I understand what my surgeon can and cannot do. I understand that no warranties or guarantees have been hinted at or stated outright about the outcome of the surgery. I have explained my goals. I understand which outcomes are realistic and which are not. All my questions have been answered. I understand the surgery’s risks. I am aware of other risks and possible issues, benefits, and options. I understand and choose to have the surgery.
5. I agree to the anesthetics that are needed or helpful. I understand that all types of anesthesia have risks and may result in complications, injury, and even death.
6. I am aware of the serious risks to my health when blood products are used. I agree to my doctor using them if my doctor, assistants, and/or designees think they are needed or helpful.
7. I agree to the disposal of any tissue, medical devices, or body parts taken out during or after surgery. I also agree to any additional surgeries or treatment that is needed or helpful.
8. I agree to have parts of my body photographed or televised appropriately before, during, and after the surgery for medical, scientific, or educational reasons, if the pictures do not reveal my identity.
9. For medical education, I agree that onlookers can be in the operating room.
10. I permit my Social Security Number to be given to the right agencies for legal reasons and medical device registration, when necessary.
11. I agree to the charges for this surgery. I understand that the doctor’s charges are separate from the charges for the hospital and the anesthesia. I understand that there may be more charges if more procedures or treatments are needed or helpful. I agree to those charges, if any.
12. I understand that not having the surgery is an option and that I can opt-out of having the surgery.
13. IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO ME IN A WAY THAT I UNDERSTAND:
  - a. THE ABOVE SURGERY TO BE PERFORMED
  - b. THERE MAY BE OTHER SURGERIES OR TREATMENT OPTIONS
  - c. THERE ARE RISKS TO THE SURGERY

I CONSENT TO THE SURGERY AND THE ITEMS THAT ARE LISTED ABOVE (1-13).  
 I UNDERSTAND THE EXPLANATION AND HAVE NO MORE QUESTIONS.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Patient or Person Authorized to Sign for Patient                      Date/Time

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Witness    Date/Time

