



**REGENESIS**  
PLASTIC SURGERY AND SKIN CARE CENTER

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INFORMED CONSENT FOR

**BODY CONTOURING**

(INCLUDES: LIPOSUCTION, ABDOMINOPLASTY,  
ARMLIFT, THIGHLIFT AND BODYLIFT)

**PLEASE REVIEW AND BRING WITH YOU ON THE DAY OF YOUR PROCEDURE**

PATIENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PATIENT INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

## ***INFORMED CONSENT FOR BODY CONTOURING, Continued***

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

This is an informed-consent document that has been prepared to help your plastic surgeon inform you about the risks and alternative treatments of body contouring surgery, which may include any combination of abdominoplasty (tummy tuck), liposuction, armlift (brachioplasty), thighlift and bodylift surgery.

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.

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Abdominoplasty** is a surgical procedure to remove excess skin and fatty tissue from the middle and lower abdomen and to tighten muscles of the abdominal wall. A **Circumferential Abdominoplasty** extends the incision to the back of the body to allow for excision of fatty tissue in the back of the waist-line.

**Armlift** is a surgical procedure to remove excess skin and fatty tissue from the upper arm and occasionally the armpit area.

**Thighlift** is a surgical procedure to remove excess skin and fatty tissue from the upper thigh and occasionally the midthigh.

**Bodylift** is a surgical procedure to remove excess skin and fatty tissue in the upper buttock and thigh area.

**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 may be combined with other surgical techniques such as facelift, abdominoplasty, armlift, thighlift or bodylift 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. 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”.**

**Suction-assisted lipectomy** (liposuction) 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.

In some situations, a special cannula may be used that emits ultrasonic energy to break down fatty deposits. This technique is known as **ultrasonic-assisted lipectomy**. Depending on your needs,

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your surgeon may recommend suction-assisted lipectomy alone, or in combination with ultrasound-assisted lipectomy.

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. **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, as well as reduce 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.

There are a variety of different techniques used by plastic surgeons for body contouring surgery. Individual procedures can be combined with other forms of body contouring surgery, including liposuction, or performed at the same time with other elective surgeries.

Body contouring surgery is not a surgical treatment for being overweight. Obese individuals who intend to lose weight should postpone all forms of body contouring surgery until they have been able to maintain their weight loss.

**Body contouring surgery after large weight loss** is more complex and prone to more problems because of the associated skin laxity. Improving the bodies appearance after large weight loss such as after bariatric surgery (stomach stapling or bypass) usually requires multiple surgeries and revisions. Because of the poor condition of the underlying skin structure, some of the skin laxity and deformity may return after surgery. More surgery may be needed to correct such results.

### **ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS**

Alternative forms of management consist of not treating the areas of loose skin and fatty deposits. Suction assisted lipectomy surgery may be a surgical alternative to abdominoplasty, armlift and thighlift if there is good skin tone and localized abdominal fatty deposits in an individual of normal weight. Diet and exercise programs may be of benefit in the overall reduction of excess body fat. Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative forms of treatment that involve surgery.

### **RISKS OF BODY CONTOURING SURGERY**

Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk and it is important that you understand the risks involved with body contouring surgery. 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 the following complications, you should discuss each of them with your plastic surgeon to make sure you understand the consequences of surgery.

**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 blood transfusion. Do not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for ten days before surgery, as this may increase the risk of bleeding. Non-prescription "herbs" and dietary supplements can increase the risk of surgical bleeding.

## ***INFORMED CONSENT FOR BODY CONTOURING, Continued***

**Infection** - Infection is unusual after this type of surgery. Should an infection occur, treatment including antibiotics or additional surgery may be necessary. There is a greater risk of infection when body contouring procedures are performed in conjunction with abdominal surgical procedures.

**Change in skin sensation-** Diminished (or loss of) skin sensation in the abdominal area, arms and armpits, thighs or other treated areas may not totally resolve after body contouring surgery.

**Skin contour irregularities and discoloration-** Contour irregularities and depressions may occur after body contouring surgery. Visible and palpable wrinkling of skin can occur. Rarely does the skin in the treated area change color.

**Skin scarring** - Excessive scarring is uncommon. In rare cases, abnormal scars may result. Scars may be unattractive and of different color than surrounding skin. Occasionally, the scars in the arm, elbow, armpit region, thighs and groin may become wide and stretched causing webbing of the skin. Additional treatments including surgery may be necessary to treat abnormal scarring.

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

**Asymmetry-** Symmetrical body appearance may not result from body contouring surgery. Factors such as skin tone, fatty deposits, bony prominence, and muscle tone may contribute to normal asymmetry in body features.

**Tissue distortion** – Treated areas may stretch or become distorted over time. This may be difficult to correct and may require further surgery. The armpit and groin are the most common places of tissue distortion.

**Delayed healing-** Wound disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. Some areas of the body may not heal normally and may take a long time to heal. Some areas of skin may die. This may require frequent dressing changes or further surgery to remove the non-healed tissue.

**Smokers have a greater risk of skin loss and wound healing complications.**

**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.

**Blood clots-** Blood clots in the veins of the arms, legs, or pelvis and may result from surgery or immobilization. These clots may cause problems with the veins or may break off and flow to the lungs where they may cause serious breathing problems.

**Pulmonary complications-** Pulmonary (lung and breathing) complications may occur from both blood clots (pulmonary emboli) and partial collapse of the lungs after general anesthesia. Should either of these complications occur, you may require hospitalization and additional treatment. Pulmonary emboli can be life-threatening or fatal in some circumstances. Fat embolism syndrome occurs when fat droplets are trapped in the lungs. This is a very rare and possibly fatal complication of liposuction.

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**Seroma-** Fluid accumulations infrequently occur in between the skin and underlying muscle. Should this problem occur, it may require additional procedures for drainage of fluid.

**Umbilicus-** Malposition, scarring, unacceptable appearance or loss of the umbilicus (navel) may occur after abdominoplasty.

**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.

**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 body contouring surgery.

**Pain-** Chronic pain may occur very infrequently from nerves becoming trapped in scar tissue after body contouring surgery.

**Death or serious injury-** In very rare cases, serious complications such stroke, heart attack or even death have resulted from surgery.

**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. Individuals undergoing liposuction procedures where large volumes of fat is removed are at greater risk of complications. Patients contemplating large volume liposuction, greater than 5000 cc's, may be advised to have post operative monitoring and aftercare that involves overnight hospitalization.

**Ultrasound-Assisted Lipectomy-** Risks associated with the use of this technique include the above mentioned risks and the following specific risks:

**Burns-** Ultrasonic energy may produce burns and tissue damage either at the location where the cannula is inserted into the skin or in other areas if the cannula touches the undersurface of the skin for prolonged periods of time. If burns occur, additional treatment and surgery may be necessary.

**Cannula Fragmentation-** Ultrasonic energy produced within the cannula may cause disintegration (fragmentation) of the surgical instrument. The occurrence and effect of this is unpredictable. Should this occur, additional treatment, including surgery, may be necessary.

**Unknown risks-** The long term effect on tissue and organs to exposure to short-duration, high-intensity ultrasonic energy is unknown. There is the possibility that additional risk factors of ultrasound-assisted lipectomy may be discovered.

**Deeper sutures-** Some surgical techniques use deep sutures. These items may be noticed by the patient following surgery. Sutures may spontaneously poke through the skin, be visible, or produce irritation that requires removal.

**Use of abdominal tissue for breast reconstruction-** The tissue in the lower abdomen is often used to reconstruct a breast after the loss of a breast due to conditions such as cancer. After an

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abdominoplasty or liposuction, this tissue is no longer available for breast reconstruction. Other options may still be available for reconstruction in the future if needed.

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

### **ADDITIONAL SURGERY NECESSARY**

Should complications occur, additional surgery or other treatments may be necessary. Even though risks and complications occur infrequently, the risks cited are particularly associated with body contouring surgery. Other complications and risks can occur but are even more uncommon. The practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science. Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee or warranty expressed or implied, on the results that may be obtained.

### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

Most health insurance companies exclude coverage for cosmetic surgical operations such as body contouring surgery or any complications that might occur from surgery. Please carefully review your health insurance subscriber-information pamphlet.

### **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The cost of surgery involves several charges for the services provided. The total includes fees charged by your doctor, the cost of surgical supplies, anesthesia, laboratory tests, and possible outpatient hospital charges, depending on where the surgery is performed. Depending on whether the cost of surgery is covered by an insurance plan, you will be responsible for necessary co-payments, deductibles, and charges not covered. Additional costs may occur should complications develop from the surgery. Secondary surgery or hospital day-surgery charges involved with revisionary surgery would also be your responsibility.

### **DISCLAIMER**

Informed-consent documents are used to communicate information about the proposed surgical treatment of a disease or condition along with disclosure of risks and alternative forms of treatment(s). The informed-consent process attempts to define principles of risk disclosure that should generally meet the needs of most patients in most circumstances.

However, informed consent documents 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 the state of medical knowledge.

Informed-consent documents are not intended to define or serve as the standard of medical care. Standards of medical care are determined on the basis of all of the facts involved in an individual case and are subject to change as scientific knowledge and technology advance and as practice patterns evolve.

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

***INFORMED CONSENT FOR BODY CONTOURING, Continued***

**CONSENT FOR SURGERY/ PROCEDURE or TREATMENT**

1. I hereby authorize Dr. Matthew Swelstad and such assistants as may be selected to perform the following procedure or treatment: Body Contouring including:

- Abdominoplasty
- Liposuction
- Armlift
- Thighlift
- Bodylift

I have received the following information sheet:

**INFORMED-CONSENT FOR BODY CONTOURING**

2. I recognize that during the course of the operation and medical treatment or anesthesia, unforeseen conditions may necessitate different procedures than those above. I therefore authorize the above physician and assistants or designees to perform such other procedures that are in the exercise of his or her professional judgment necessary and desirable. The authority granted under this paragraph shall include all conditions that require treatment and are not known to my physician at the time the procedure is begun.
3. I consent to the administration of such anesthetics considered necessary or advisable. I understand that all forms of anesthesia involves risk and the possibility of complications, injury, and sometimes death.
4. I acknowledge that no guarantee has been given by anyone as to the results that may be obtained.
5. I hereby grant permission for the use of any of my medical records including illustrations, photographs or other imaging records created in my case, for use in examination, testing, credentialing and/or certifying purposes by the American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc.
6. For purposes of advancing medical education, I consent to the admittance of observers to the operating room.
7. I consent to the disposal of any tissue, medical devices or body parts which may be removed.
8. I authorize the release of my Social Security number to appropriate agencies for legal reporting and medical-device registration, if applicable.
9. IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO ME IN A WAY THAT I UNDERSTAND:
  - a. THE ABOVE TREATMENT OR PROCEDURE TO BE UNDERTAKEN
  - b. THERE MAY BE ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF TREATMENT
  - c. THERE ARE RISKS TO THE PROCEDURE OR TREATMENT PROPOSED
10. I READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS DOCUMENT. I ACCEPT THE RISKS EXPLAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT.

I CONSENT TO THE TREATMENT OR PROCEDURE AND THE ABOVE LISTED ITEMS (1-10). I AM SATISFIED WITH THE EXPLANATION.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient or Person Authorized to Sign for Patient

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Witness \_\_\_\_\_