

# Information leaflet for people who are considering undergoing liposuction.

Bey By Bergman Clinics – April 2022

In this leaflet, you will read information about liposuction: why and when to undergo the procedure, the consultation, the preparation, the surgery, the period after the procedure, the result, and lastly, the complications and risks that may arise. Your personal situation and options for treatment can only be discussed during a personal conversation. This leaflet serves as preparation and/or addition to your conversation with the plastic surgeon.

## Why and when

Local fat accumulations can occur in areas such as the neck, abdomen, hips, buttocks, thighs, knees and lower legs. These are caused by an increased number of fat cells in these areas in people who are predisposed to this. The fat layer covering the rest of the body is often normal. Such local fat accumulations can cause problems. For example, it can be difficult to find clothing that fits properly. In addition, a person can be dissatisfied or even unhappy about the external appearance of these local fat accumulations.

If you experience the problems listed above and this bothers you, then this can form a good reason to consider treatment: having excess fat suctioned off may well provide you with a solution. This is also called 'liposuction' or 'liposculpting'.

Liposuction is the process of subcutaneous removal of local abnormal fat accumulations. Liposculpting is a form of liposuction in which very thin suction tubes (cannulas) are used to remove the fat; this is the way in which the plastic surgeon performs the liposuction. Liposuction or liposculpting is not intended as a general weight loss treatment. If you weigh too much in all areas of your body and your fat percentage is too high, then a surgeon will generally not consider it wise to treat you.

Liposuction or liposculpting procedures are less suitable if your skin and the underlying tissue do not have sufficient elasticity. In that case, the surgical removal of the local area of skin with underlying fat accumulation may provide a better solution (dermolipectomy, as performed in an arm or thigh lift procedure).

## Consultation

During a non-binding consultation with the plastic surgeon, you will have the opportunity to discuss your wishes and things you are not happy with. The plastic surgeon will examine the areas where excess fat has accumulated and discuss with you whether a liposuction or liposculpting procedure will sufficiently resolve your problem. Next, your questions will be answered and you will receive the most detailed possible information about the preparation, the procedure, the expected result after the procedure and the possible complications. After all, you may be disappointed with the result if you go into the procedure with the wrong idea. If the plastic surgeon is not convinced that your problem can be adequately resolved, he/she will discuss this with you, as well. If possible, the doctor will propose a different solution (for example losing weight by dieting or surgically removing the local fat accumulation with excess skin (dermolipectomy, as performed in an arm/thigh/back lift)). If you wish, you can be referred to a colleague for a second opinion.

Cosmetic surgery is not covered by health insurance. Reimbursement of medically necessary surgery depends on the criteria set by the healthcare insurance company for this procedure. You can consult your healthcare insurance company and/or policy terms and conditions to check these criteria. The specialist cannot deviate from these criteria. The current rules for reimbursement may change in the future.

#### **Your own responsibilities prior to your surgery:**

You should observe a number of preparations in the period prior to your surgery, such as:

- **Stopping blood thinners (anticoagulants):**

You may need to stop taking your blood-thinning medication prior to the surgery. The plastic surgeon will inform you about this. In addition, you attended a pre-operative screening with the anaesthesiology assistant several weeks prior to your surgery, in which your health and the medication policy were discussed. This included a discussion of which blood-thinning medication you need to stop using (temporarily). If your prescribing physician does not approve the temporary discontinuation of blood-thinning medication, then the scheduled surgery cannot take place at Bey by Bergman Clinics.

- **Submit your general medication overview (GMO):**

If you are using medication, this overview can be obtained from your pharmacy. You can also give us permission to share your medication details via the National Exchange Point.

- **Submit the signed Informed Consent Form:**

You will receive this form once your surgery has been scheduled.

- **Pay the invoice according to the terms of payment\*.**

#### **ALCOHOL POLICY:**

- No alcohol for 48 hours before surgery and 2 weeks after surgery.

#### **SMOKING POLICY:**

- Smoking has a negative effect on wound healing.
- No smoking for 4 weeks before surgery and 4 weeks after surgery.

#### **NAIL VARNISH POLICY:**

- There is no need to remove nail varnish, gel nails or acrylic nails prior to the surgery.

#### **DRUGS POLICY:**

- Use of drugs like XTC, methamphetamine, heroin or cocaine must be stopped at least 1 week before surgery. This can otherwise cause severe heart rhythm disorders during the operation or reduce the effect of anaesthetics.
- This does not apply to prescription amphetamine use for AD(H)D.
- The same rules as for smoking apply to cannabis.

#### **FASTING POLICY:**

Please refer to the anaesthesiology leaflet for the fasting policy.

#### **If the procedure is to be performed under local anaesthesia:**

- no pre-operative screening will be performed by anaesthesiology
- the fasting policy does not apply

The plastic surgeon, anaesthesiology technicians, nursing staff, consultant and treatment app can provide more information if you have any questions.

### Good idea to purchase before the surgery:

- Paracetamol 500 mg, 2 tablets 4x daily
- Naproxen (Aleve) 250 mg 2x daily, if necessary (reduce this pain medication before paracetamol)
- Pantoprazole (gastric protector) 20 mg 1x daily (with use of Naproxen)
- Sanitary pads
- Non-sterile gauze

### The surgery

- The plastic surgeon will draw on the area of your body where the fat will be removed just before surgery.
- The surgical field will then be disinfected and covered with sterile drapes.
- A liquid that makes it easier to remove the fat cells and reduces bleeding to a minimum is then injected into the area in question via small incisions measuring about half a centimetre in an inconspicuous location. Once the liquid has taken effect, a small suction tube will be inserted via these skin incisions. This suction tube is connected to a powerful suction pump.
- Next, the surgeon moves the suction tube back and forth with his hands in the treatment area and sucks the excess fat out in a controlled manner.
- Once the desired result has been achieved, the incisions are sutured.
- The made-to-measure pressure garment will be fitted over the area.

If you are allowed home, somebody must accompany you home. You may not drive a vehicle yourself. We also recommend that you do not spend the first 24 hours alone at home.

### After the procedure

You will experience some pain after any procedure. This is normal. You can take the prescribed pain medication if you experience any pain. The pain will decrease over the course of a few days. After the surgery, some wound exudate may leak from the small skin incisions. This usually stops after 1 to 2 days. Prepare your bed by placing pads or a plastic sheet on the bed to protect the mattress. The treated area can be swollen and you can develop painful bruising. Fluid accumulation can occur around the ankles and occasionally the forearms. Please contact the number +31 (0)88 9000 535 if you have any questions about this.

### Recovery period

Starting from the day after the surgery, you may:

- Sleep on your back or side.
- Shower on a daily basis at home.
- Use sanitary pads or non-sterile gauze for any oozing of the wound.
- Mobilise according to the pain, listen to your body.
- Increase your activities further each day.
- Resume driving and cycling 2 weeks after the surgery (this depends on your healthcare insurance company).
- Sauna, bath, swimming pool and exercise after 6 weeks.

Depending on the area that you have had surgery on, you will wear pants or an elasticated belt after surgery.

You should wear these:

- Day and night during the first 2 weeks.
- During the day in weeks 3 and 4.
- If necessary in weeks 5 and 6.

You will need to use SPF 30 or 50 sun cream to protect the scars against the sun during the first year. Ask your specialist about any restrictions in your travel plans after your procedure.

You will visit the nurses and the specialist for check-ups after the surgery. We want to remind you that it is important for you to attend these follow-up appointments. This allows the nurse and the medical specialist to monitor the progress of your recovery. They can also offer advice if you have any questions regarding the information provided above.

### **The result**

You will notice a visible effect of the procedure almost immediately after the liposuction/liposculpting procedure. The definitive final result can usually be determined after three months. The local fat accumulation has disappeared or is significantly reduced and this has resulted in the desired improvement. Irregularities in the skin that existed before the procedure will not be corrected. In fact, your skin may become more irregular as a result of the procedure due to some local excess skin and insufficient shrinkage of the skin.

Experience and research demonstrate that the volume can increase slightly from six to twelve months after liposuction or liposculpting of the abdomen, upper abdomen and the sides of the body. Sometimes it is difficult to achieve a symmetrical result. An additional liposuction or liposculpture procedure may be required. Perhaps you are not satisfied with the result, for example because you had different expectations. Please be sure to mention this.

### **Complications and risks**

The plastic surgeon always invests a great deal of time, care and personal attention in your treatment. However, complications do unfortunately occur: no procedure is entirely free of the risk of complications. The normal risks of surgery – such as thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, post-op bleeding and wound infection – also apply to this surgery. Specific complications can also occur:

- There is a risk of more than normal bruising after liposuction, though this almost never occurs. The bruising will disappear spontaneously over the course of a few weeks.
- Infection of the treated area is a very rare complication. If you start to feel ill, develop a fever or the treated area becomes red, looks swollen, feels extra warm or becomes painful to the touch, then you should contact the plastic surgeon.
- Residual swelling and hardening can sometimes be present and may only resolve after weeks or even months.
- The sensation in the skin of the treated area and near the scars is often reduced or absent. This generally does not cause problems. The sensation can recover partially over the course of the years.
- It is not possible to guarantee a one-hundred-percent identical (symmetrical) result, because the human body is not symmetrical and 100% symmetry can never be achieved.
- Sometimes a small amount of local fat accumulation or a degree of asymmetry will remain, which can be resolved with an additional liposculpting procedure.
- In very rare cases, an allergic reaction to the anaesthetic can occur.

### **Always contact us after surgery in the following cases:**

- Significantly increased swelling of the wound or the surgical area
- Pain, if the pain medication does not help or the pain even increases
- Redness and swelling of the wound
- Feeling ill and/or a fever, above 38°C (measured via the anus)
- Persistent nausea
- Acute tightness across the chest
- Acute pain in the leg, possibly with swelling
- Being unable to urinate, whilst drinking normal quantities
- Concerns or doubts

We can be contacted for emergencies 24 hours per day, via +31 (0)88 9000 567.

For non-urgent matters, please call +31 (0)88 9000 535 during office hours.

## More information

If you have any further questions after reading this leaflet, you can ask your plastic surgeon to answer these questions at any time. You can schedule an appointment for a consultation. You can contact the clinic on telephone number +31 (0)88 9000 535 about this.

## Complaints and privacy regulations

Bey by Bergman Clinics has complaints and privacy regulations in place. A copy of these regulations can be obtained from our locations and on our website [www.beyclinics.nl](http://www.beyclinics.nl).

## Cooling-off period

Bey by Bergman Clinics acts according to the guidelines of the NVPC and thus implements a 'cooling-off' period. This is the time between the first consultation in which the treatment is proposed and the decision to continue with the treatment. We implement a cooling-off period of one week for a cosmetic surgical procedure.

## Terms and conditions of payment\*

The first instalment of 25% of the treatment costs must be paid within 5 days after receipt of the invoice. The remainder of the treatment costs should be received by us no later than 4 weeks prior to the surgery date. Cash payments are only possible following agreement with your consultant.

If your surgery has been approved by your healthcare insurance company, then you are responsible for reading the terms and conditions of your insurance policy to check that they will reimburse 100% of the costs of your surgery.

## Cancellation policy

You must cancel your surgery in writing. Cancellation within 3 weeks prior to your surgery will result in costs already incurred to the sum of 25% of the costs of surgery being billed to you. Cancellation within 48 hours prior to the agreed date of surgery is only permitted in the case of absolute and demonstrable force majeure.

In all other cases of non-insured care, you will be billed for 100% of the agreed treatment costs. In the case of a treatment that is reimbursed by your healthcare insurance company, your treatment cannot be rescheduled at Bey by Bergman Clinics. The aforementioned cancellation policy also applies if the surgery cannot be performed due to failure on your part to fulfil your responsibilities as listed in this leaflet.

## Finally

This leaflet serves as preparation and as a supplement to the conversation with the plastic surgeon and as a 'reference' for the period after the surgery. However, such a description can never apply completely to each individual situation. Plastic and aesthetic surgery is not an exact science; this written information should in no way be construed as a guarantee for the course of events and the result of your procedure.