

Specific Risks of Liposuction

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 most patients do not experience these complications, you should discuss them with your plastic surgeon at The Aesthetic Center by Kaiser Permanente to make sure you understand all possible risks of liposuction.

Patient Selection

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

Liposuction in General

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.

Ultrasound, VASER, & Laser-Assisted Lipectomy

Risks associated with these techniques include the above mentioned risks and the following specific risks:

Burns

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 liposuction may be discovered.

Revision Surgery

Every effort is made for you to have a favorable outcome but, unforeseen events can occur that may require revisional surgery. Patients with multiple medical problems, massive weight loss patients, smokers, patients that develop infections in the post-operative period and other high-risk patients have a greater propensity to require revisional surgery.

Asymmetry

The human body is normally asymmetric. There can be normal differences between each side of the body in terms of shape and size. There can be a variation from one side to the other in the results obtained from a liposuction procedure. Additional surgery may be necessary to correct postoperative asymmetry.

Lumps

In addition to asymmetry, removal of fatty tissue can cause a lumpy or sagging appearance. Lumps are sometimes temporary, due to swelling. Other lumps are permanent.

Prolonged Edema

Swelling is normal after surgery but sometimes prolonged swelling, or edema, occurs. This is caused by extra fluid trapped in the tissues of the body.