

VASER® Liposuction Informed Consent

Patient Name: _____

INSTRUCTIONS

This is an informed- consent document that has been prepared to help educate you on the VASER® Liposuction procedure, 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 surgeon.

INTRODUCTION

VASER® Liposuction is a surgical technique to remove unwanted deposits of fat from specific areas of the body, including the face and neck, upper arms, chest, upper and lower back, abdomen, buttocks, hips, inner and outer thighs, knees, calves, and ankles. This is not a substitute for weight reduction, but a method for removing localized deposits of fatty tissue. VASER® Liposuction may be performed as a primary procedure for body contouring or may be combined with other surgical techniques.

The best candidates for VASER® 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 lipoplasty. 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. Lipoplasty itself will not improve areas of dimpled skin known as "cellulite".

The VASER® Liposuction procedure is performed utilizing advanced proprietary technology. A patented grooved solid metal probe is first inserted through one or more small skin incisions. Ultrasonic energy emitted from the sides and end of the probe as it is passed back and forth breaks down fatty deposits. Subsequently, a hollow metal surgical instrument known as a cannula is inserted and is directed through the area of emulsified fat cells. The cannula is attached to a vacuum source, which provides gentle suction to remove the emulsified fat. Because the

VASER® Liposuction procedure is unique in that it first targets and dissolves fat cells and then draws out emulsified fat, leaving the collagen matrix intact, surgical trauma, complications and the potential for post-operative pain and bruising are minimized while skin retraction is optimal.

VASER® Liposuction may be performed under local or general anaesthesia, and requires the infiltration of fluid containing dilute local anaesthetic and adrenaline 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 after surgery to control potential swelling and promote healing, to provide comfort and support, and to help skin better fit new body contours. 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.

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ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT

Alternative forms of management include not treating the areas of fatty deposits, and diet and exercise regimens that 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 lipoplasty in some patients. Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative forms of treatment that involve surgery.

RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS

Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk, and it is important that you understand the risks involved with the VASER® Liposuction procedure. 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 surgeon to make sure you understand the risks, potential complications, and consequences of VASER® Liposuction.

Patient Selection: Individuals with poor skin tone, medical problems, or unrealistic expectations may not be candidates for VASER® Liposuction.

Allergic Reactions: Rarely, local allergies to tape, suture material, or topical preparations utilized in lipoplasty procedures have been reported. More serious systemic reactions due to drugs administered during surgery and prescription medicines may require additional treatment.

Asymmetry: Due to factors such as skin tone, bony prominence, and muscle tone, which can contribute to normal asymmetry in body features, it may not be possible to achieve symmetrical body appearance through lipoplasty procedures.

Bleeding: While unusual, it is possible 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. Non-prescription herbs and dietary supplements can increase the risk of surgical bleeding. Do not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for 2 weeks before surgery, as this may increase the risk of bleeding. Please review our Medication Alert for products and ingredients to be avoided for 2 weeks prior to and 2 weeks following your scheduled VASER® Liposuction procedure, and consult your doctor before taking anything.

Change in Skin and Skin Sensation: A temporary decrease in skin sensation may occur following VASER® Liposuction. This usually resolves over a period of time. Diminished or complete loss of skin sensation that does not totally resolve could potentially occur, as it infrequently has with various lipoplasty procedures.

Chronic Pain: Chronic pain and discomfort following VASER® Liposuction is unusual, but possible.

Infection: Infection is uncommon following this type of surgery. Should an infection occur, treatment with antibiotics or additional surgery may be necessary. Although extremely rare, life-threatening infections such as toxic shock syndrome could occur after lipoplasty surgery, regardless of the technology utilized.

Long-term Effects: Subsequent alterations in body contour may occur as a result of aging, weight loss or gain, pregnancy, or other circumstances not related to VASER® Liposuction.

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Pulmonary Complications: In extremely rare cases, fat droplets could become trapped in the lungs to create a possibly fatal complication called fat embolism syndrome. Pulmonary complications may occur secondarily to blood clots (pulmonary emboli) or partial collapse of the lungs after general anaesthesia. Should either of these complications occur, you may require hospitalization and additional treatment. In some circumstances, pulmonary emboli can be life-threatening or fatal.

Scarring: Although the incisions created for VASER® Liposuction are minimal and good wound healing after a surgical procedure is expected, abnormal scars may occur within the skin and deeper tissues in rare cases. Such scars may be unattractive and of a different colour than surrounding skin. Additional treatments, including surgery, may be necessary to treat abnormal scarring.

Seroma: While VASER® Liposuction has reduced the incidence and severity of seromas associated with lipoplasty procedures, such fluid accumulation is possible and could require additional treatments or surgery to promote drainage.

Bruising and/or Swelling: Although VASER® Liposuction typically reduces or eliminates bruising and swelling normally resulting from lipoplasty procedures, bruising and swelling may occur and, in rare situations, persist for extended periods of time (upto 12 months post procedure).

Skin Contour Irregularities: Since VASER® Liposuction selectively targets fat cells, leaving other essential tissues intact, skin contour irregularities and depressions in the skin are unlikely but possible. Visible and palpable wrinkling of skin can occur, particularly when large quantities of fat cells are removed and/or the skin is lacking good elasticity. Post-operative skin contour irregularities could necessitate additional treatments including surgery.

Skin Loss: Additional treatments including surgery could be necessary in the unlikely event that skin loss occurs following your VASER® Liposuction treatment.

Surgical Anaesthesia: All forms of surgical anaesthesia or sedation, whether administered locally or generally, carry risks including the possibility of complication, injury, and even death.

Surgical Shock: VASER® Liposuction could conceivably cause severe trauma, particularly when multiple or extensive areas are treated in a single session. Although serious complications are a rarity, infections or excessive fluid loss could lead to severe illness and even death. Should surgical shock occur following your VASER® Liposuction treatment, hospitalization and additional treatment would be necessary. Individuals undergoing VASER® Liposuction procedures to remove large volumes of fat are at a greater risk of complications. Patients contemplating large-volume lipoplasty (greater than 5000cc removed) may be advised to undergo post-operative monitoring and aftercare that involves overnight hospitalization.

Lignocaine Toxicity: 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.

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Ultrasonic Technology: Risks associated with the use of ultrasound in lipoplasty treatments include the aforementioned and the following specific risks:

Burns: Ultrasonic energy may produce burns and tissue damage either at the incision site or in other areas if the probe touches the undersurface of the skin for prolonged periods of time. If burns occur, additional treatment and surgery may be necessary.

Probe Fragmentation : Ultrasonic energy produced within the probe(s) may cause disintegration (fragmentation) of the surgical instrument. The occurrence and effect of this is unpredictable. If this should occur, additional treatment including surgery may be necessary.

Unknown Risks: The long term effect on tissue and organs of exposure to short -duration, high intensity ultrasonic energy is unknown. The possibility exists that additional risk factors resulting from the use of ultrasound in VASER® Liposuction could potentially be discovered.

Other: While we have attempted to assist you in building realistic expectations for your VASER® Liposuction treatment, you may be disappointed with your surgical results. However infrequent, it may be necessary in your case to perform additional surgery to improve results.

ADDITIONAL SURGERY NECESSARY

There are many variable conditions in addition to risk and potential surgical complications that may influence the long term result of VASER® Liposuction. Even though risks and complications are unusual, the risks cited previously are particularly associated with lipoplasty procedures utilizing suction and/or ultrasound technologies. Other complications and risks can occur but are even more uncommon. If complications should occur, additional surgery or other treatments may be necessary. The practice of medicine 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.

HAVING READ THIS CONSENT SHEET AND HAVING HAD A CHANCE TO DISCUSS FULLY YOUR VASER LIPOSUCTION WITH YOUR SURGEON, IF YOU ACCEPT THE RISKS EXPLAINED AND ARE HAPPY TO PROCEED WITH THE PROCEDURE, PLEASE FILL IN THE BELOW:

Patient Name (please print): _____

Patient Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name of Surgeon: _____

Surgeon Signature: _____