

INFORMED CONSENT PANNICULECTOMY SURGERY

GENERAL INFORMATION- Panniculectomy is a surgical procedure to remove excess skin and fatty tissue from the lower abdomen. Panniculectomy surgery is not a treatment for being overweight. Obese individuals who intend to lose weight should postpone all forms of body-contouring surgery until they have reached a stable weight. There are a variety of different techniques used by plastic surgeons for panniculectomy. The panniculectomy can be combined with other forms of body-contouring surgery, including suction-assisted lipectomy in other areas, or other elective surgeries. Panniculectomy removes excess tissue leaving planned abdominal scars, without correcting the abdominal muscles or other contour irregularities of the abdominal areas. It is usually performed when a pannus or overhang of abdominal tissue is present.

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS- not treating the areas of loose skin and fatty deposits. Liposuction may be a surgical alternative to panniculectomy, but usually will not help in removing the extra, loose, overhanging skin. Diet and exercise programs may be a benefit in the overall reduction of excess body fat and contour improvement. Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative surgical forms of treatment.

SPECIFIC RISKS OF PANNICULECTOMY SURGERY

CHANGE IN SKIN SENSATION: It is common to experience diminished (or loss) of skin sensation in areas that have had surgery. Diminished (or complete loss of skin sensation) may not totally resolve after a panniculectomy.

UMBILICUS: Malposition, scarring, unacceptable appearance or loss of the umbilicus (navel) may occur.

PUBIC DISTORTION: It is possible, though unusual, for women to develop distortion of their labia and pubic area. Should this occur, additional treatment including surgery may be necessary.

CONTOUR IRREGULARITIES/ASYMMETRY: As this procedure is designed to remove an apron of skin, it is very common to have residual irregularities that may motivate one to pursue revisions to improve upon. Anticipate that this will happen to some degree.