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Controversial injection claims to get rid of fat



Nov. 28, 2007 (KGO) - What if you could lose inches with a simple injection? A controversial new procedure claims it can do just that.

That's the big question.

The procedure is called "lipodissolve" and it claims that by injecting a chemical cocktail into fat tissue they can actually melt fat.

We decided to take a look because it sounds too good to be true.

Type the word "lipodissolve" into Google and you'll find terms like "under investigation," "alert," and "is it worth it?" letting you know this is a very controversial new health fad.

Nurse and esthetician Irene Komsky is the self-proclaimed number one practitioner in the Bay Area.

"It's a new way of body-sculpting by injection," said Komsky.

To achieve this sculpting she will inject the chemicals phosphatidylcholine and deoxycholate into Liana Deville's body.

"Injections placed right into the fat and fat actually melts away," said Komsky.

This is the second go-around for Liana.

"I had my lower abdomen and I had my saddlebags done," said lipodissolve patient Liana Deville.

She says it worked especially well on her thighs with minimal bruising.

"I noticed that the pockets of fat that I had here just kind of dissolved. They just kind of went away," said Deville.

Now she wants more injections to further slim her stomach. But it's these very injections that make lipodissolve so controversial.

"What they inject is a big mystery because it's not regulated or approved by the FDA," said dermatologist Dr. Victor Narurkar.

Irene Komsky showed us these photos highlighting spot areas of reduction; results she says came from lipodissolve.

"We can treat with lipodissolve double chin, love handles, upper and lower abdomen, saddlebags, love handles, thighs," said Komsky.

But Irene admits, her patients also diet and exercise during treatment.

Whether lipodissolve truly works is unknown because there are no good scientific studies. The main concern is that the risks may outweigh any "possible" benefits.

Both the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery and the Main Plastic Surgery society warn the potential dangers are too great, and they do not recommend lipodissolve.

And that's not all.

Brazil has banned the use of lipodissolve for fat, Canada has ordered physicians to stop using the injections and the United Kingdom warns against the use of the shots.

In this country, there are no FDA approved drugs with an indication to dissolve fat.

The FDA says: Buyer beware.

"So the fundamental problem with Lippodissolve is that there are no good controlled clinical trials to support number one its effective or its safety," said dermatologist Dr. Victor Narurkar.

California Pacific Medical Center dermatologist Victor Narurkar serves on several dermatology safety committees.

"I am concerned that this may get out of hand and we can see tragic consequences such as infection, skin breakdown and other adverse effects for an unregulated substance," said Dr. Narurkar.

So if you're considering lipodissolve, you might want to wait for some sound science.

Injections can cost \$300 or more dollars or more per area, and practitioners recommend at least three to five treatments for each site.

The FDA has issued a warning statement about marketing the product, but it has not yet banned it.

For more information about the treatment, [click here](#).

For complete regulatory and medical reports on lipodissolve visit lipotreatmentfacts.org.

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