

# CBS 46

## CBS 46 Investigates: Fat Melting

*Kim Fettig, CBS46 Investigates*

### Related To Story



### 46 INVESTIGATES: FAT MELTING

•  
**Video:**  [46 Investigates: Fat Melting](#)

•  
**Read:** [FDA Statement On Lipo-Dissolve](#)

•  
**Read:** [American Society of Plastic Surgeons Statement On Fat Melting](#)

•  
**Read:** [American Society For Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Statement Regarding Fat Melting](#)

•  
**Read:** [American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Statement On Mesotherapy](#)

•  
**Read:** [Statement From the American Society of Cosmetic Dermatology and Aesthetic Surgery](#)

•  
**Link:** [American Society of Nonsurgical Aesthetics](#)

•  
**Link:** [Allure's Article On Fat Melting](#)

•  
**Link:** [RealSelf.com - Treatment Advice Web Site](#)

What if you could get the same results as liposuction without any surgery?

It's a product offered at spas all over Georgia claiming to literally melt your fat away. Kim Fettig and a CBS 46 undercover investigation look at why the promise of a flat stomach may be flat out dangerous.

Marketed as a lunchtime event, the procedure is commonly referred to by the trade name, Lipodissolve. It's dozens and dozens of injections of a chemical cocktail that are supposed to burst fat cells.

Using hidden cameras at a Marietta medi-spa, we were told it's no more painful than a bunch of bug bites,

"It's as if you had multiple mosquito bites," said Dr. David Williams, the spa's doctor. He then assured us it's perfectly safe.

But our investigation found three different metro Atlanta women who went to three different spas or treatment centers all had serious reactions.

Amy Olson said that two days after she had the procedure at a Smyrna spa, she could hardly breathe.

"When I lay there on the bathroom floor and was in convulsions," Olson said. "It almost makes me cry because I literally thought I was going to die."

Olson swelled from a size 4 to a 16.

Tonya Sumner Brown had Lipodissolve treatment at the Fig Center in Duluth. She said her reactions were so severe that she started losing her hair and then her eyesight. She now wears a wig.

"People were coming by to see me like I was dying," Brown said.

Lipodissolve, Lipotherapy, Mesotherapy, and Mesoplasty are all varying combinations of the same couple of drugs used to break down body fat. They are also drugs the doctor at Renewed Image in Marietta claimed are approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Williams told CBS 46 that Lipdissolve is FDA approved.

Even the consent form Olson signed at Orchid Medspa in Smyrna claims the injections are FDA approved.

But when CBS 46 checked with the FDA, we were told, "Lipodissolve is not FDA approved for any use."

Atlanta plastic surgeon and president of the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, Dr. Foad Nahai, warned patients to, "please be careful, please reconsider. The data is not in yet".

In a statement, Renewed Image said their claims of FDA approval were due to "miscommunication", but they couldn't explain why they had told us no one had ever had a problem with Lipodissolve at the spa.

The patient we interviewed that had had her procedure done at this spa said she had complained repeatedly to them.

Fig Clinic in Duluth also told CBS 46 that no one had problems responding to the drugs even though Brown said she had told them several times about her vision and hair loss.

Dr. Ajay Kumar, a plastic surgeon, said he believes the therapy can work but that it should be done by a physician.

"I think it is a good alternative to someone who doesn't want liposuction done," Kumar said.

However, we discovered four separate medical societies -- the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery, the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, and The American Society of Cosmetic Dermatology and Aesthetic Surgery -- issued warnings about the procedure.

Since the investigation first began, the Fig Clinic has closed its doors and filed for bankruptcy. The clinics where the other women went refused to comment on camera.

Despite lack of FDA approval, Lipodissolve is legal in the U.S., but it has been banned in both Brazil and Canada.

*Copyright 2008 by cbs46.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*