

## Senator's Bill Would Ban Fat Dissolving Procedure

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OMAHA, Neb. - Dissolving away fat with a cosmetic procedure called LipoDissolve may not be safe or effective, local doctors said. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is looking into who should perform the procedure, what training should be required and what supervision should be in place for LipoDissolve.

Nebraska state Sen. Rich Pahls wants to ban it. LB 713 is meant to start a dialogue about the procedure.

"This is giving opportunity for people on both sides of the issue -- those who say it should be OK and those who have questions -- this is going to bring that conversation," Pahls said.

LipoDissolve is different than the invasive liposuction that removes larger quantities of fat, according to cosmetic surgeon Dr. Perry Johnson. LipoDissolve is a series of injections with a chemical that dissolves unwanted localized areas of fat

Marla Kelley, 50, was happy with her LipoDissolve. She said she lost 2 inches and works out five days a week. She said she now likes how her middle-age body looks in the mirror. For her, she said, LipoDissolve, added to diet and exercise, was the answer.

"Sometimes you need that extra umph to get rid of that excess body fat," she said.

Johnson doesn't offer LipoDissolve in his practice at Aesthetic Surgery Center.

"We don't do it in my office because I don't believe in it," Johnson said.

Johnson said the procedure is not approved by the U.S. government, and there's no scientific proof it's either safe or effective.

"The reality is everybody jumps on the bandwagon and starts doing it. There's huge financial incentives when people have it done," Johnson said.

Johnson said LipoDissolve can produce side effects that include infection, hard or painful nodules, skin discoloration and nausea.

He said he also worries about who is performing the procedure.

"You also have a situation where you have people, perhaps without any formal training at all in plastic surgery or dermatology, doing the procedure with no real training," he said.

Dr. Julie Waddell, director of Devenu Medical Rejuvenation Center, said she performs LipoDissolve and has even had it done herself. Waddell agreed that there can be side effects, but said they can be limited by having LipoDissolve performed by a trained physician.

The [American Society of Aesthetic LipoDissolve](#) said the complication rate has been less than 1 percent in the 60,000 cases that have been studied.

LipoDissolve is recommended for someone close to their ideal body weight.

A person usually needs six to eight sessions, which cost about \$150 each.

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