

Published Wednesday | January 23, 2008

## Fat-dissolving procedure targeted for regulation

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Doctors would be prohibited from administering certain substances aimed at dissolving fat under a bill introduced in the Nebraska Legislature.

A hearing is scheduled today on the proposal, Legislative Bill 713.

The bill would affect a procedure called lipodissolve, which is administered by injection. The bill says the substances including sodium deoxycholate could not be administered for dissolving fat unless part of clinical testing approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The bill was introduced by State Sen. Rich Pahls of Omaha. Ron Schroeder, an aide to Pahls, said the senator introduced the bill because of concerns raised by Dr. Joel Schlessinger.

Schlessinger, an Omaha dermatologist and cosmetic surgeon, said there has not been enough research to show whether lipodissolve is safe and effective.

The FDA has not approved the combination of drugs used in the lipodissolve injections, said Susan Cruzan, an FDA spokeswoman. She said the FDA is looking into whether there are concerns over how the lipodissolve is affecting patients.

Schlessinger said he is aware of cases in which lipodissolve caused swelling and other problems.

Dr. Julie Waddell, medical director at Devenu Medical Rejuvenation Center in Omaha, said she has done lipodissolve on patients and has had no problems.

She said the procedure is safe and effective as long as it done properly and those performing the procedure have proper training.

She said lipodissolve is intended to eliminate small deposits of fat to sculpt a person's body. Lipodissolve is not intended for weight loss, she said.

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