

# NICHOLAS T. HADDOCK, M.D.

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## Liposuction/Fat Grafting

### Patient Care Instructions

#### *General Information*

Liposuction is a general term for the removal of fat using a minimally invasive technique with small incisions and small suction cannulas. It can be performed in multiple areas on the body and neck. The procedure is designed to decrease the thickness of the subcutaneous tissue and shape the areas of treatment. It can be performed with multiple types of suction devices and sizes of liposuction cannulas. In some situations, this technique can be combined with other excisional procedures, which remove excess skin, such as tummy tucks. Dr. Haddock will discuss the technique that will give you the optimal result in each region.

In many situations Dr. Haddock uses liposuction to obtain fat for fat grafting into other parts of the body, especially the breast. The donor site area is treated very similarly to cosmetic liposuction in these situations and will be tailored to you.

#### *Things to handle prior to your surgery*

Arrange for someone to drive you home from the hospital and stay with you for one day.

Protein supplementation can be started one to two weeks before surgery and should include over 20 grams of additional protein daily.

Have electrolyte containing fluids such as Gatorade or electrolyte water on hand.

Have stool softeners/laxatives on hand, such as Colace, Biscodyl, Milk of Magnesia. These can be purchased at your local pharmacy.

If the thighs are treated then obtain a compressive garment to wear postoperatively. This will help with your swelling.

Review the attached list of medications not to take during the perioperative period. If you are unsure if you can stop a medication, then please call the prescribing provider to confirm if this is medically safe.

If you have any additional questions that were not addressed during your consultation, then please call Dr. Haddock's nurse at (214) 645-2353. MyChart is also an easy way to contact our office with non-urgent questions and is typically preferred to phone calls.

For your convenience, we have included a *Suggested Shopping List* in the addendum to these instructions (page 6).

### *Pre-Operative Guidelines*

Smoking should be stopped a minimum of four weeks prior to surgery. Smoking should be avoided for at least four weeks after surgery as well. Smoking can greatly interfere with healing and lead to postoperative complications.

Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before surgery. This includes no water, gum, or hard candy. Blood pressure and/or heart medications can be taken with a sip of water as directed by your prescribing physician.

If you take medication for diabetes then confirm with your prescribing physician how to manage these medications prior to surgery.

If you are prone to nausea or motion sickness let your anesthesiologist know on the day of surgery. Medications can be started prior to surgery or during surgery to help improve your postoperative experience.

### *Post-Op Care*

Medication will be prescribed on the day of the operation. This can either be collected at the hospital or sent to your home pharmacy. Take pain medication and muscle relaxers as prescribed. Often these medications are necessary for the first two days and then on an as needed basis. Do not drink alcohol with these medications.

Ibuprofen (Motrin) can be started the day after surgery.

If given a binder, then wear it continuously for the first four weeks. You may take it off to shower. Make sure someone is with you the first time you remove the compression garment as some patients feel dizzy or light-headed. The white foam pads can be replaced with the binder.

You may purchase a full length Lycra or Spandex girdle with or without zippers at a department store such as Nordstroms, Dillard's or Neimans for use following surgery. Additionally, compression garments can be ordered online: <https://www.drnicholashaddock.com/supplies/>

Many patients wear the garment for comfort for longer than four weeks.

You can put the girdle in the washer and dryer while you are showering and then put it back on in one to two hours.

Take a suggested stool softener/laxative until bowels begin to function normally after surgery. A combination of anesthesia and pain medications usually make these necessary for a few days.

Do not smoke or be around smoking as even second hand smoke delays healing and increases the risk of complications.

Get plenty of rest. The general anesthesia and pain medication can promote insomnia; therefore a sleep aid may be taken if needed.

Follow a well-balanced diet, which includes protein and is limited in salt intake. A high salt diet or meal, can lead to increased swelling and prolonged recovery. It is best to continue the protein supplementation for approximately 3 weeks after surgery.

Oral hydration should include the use of electrolyte containing fluids such as Gatorade or a low calorie substitute. Limit the amount of caffeinated beverages as they can promote dehydration; however Dr. Haddock recommends you maintain your daily average of caffeine to avoid headaches.

### ***Activity Restrictions***

Walking is encouraged the day of the operation and can be increased over the first two weeks. Cardiovascular exercise can be resumed after two weeks with all activities to be resumed at four weeks.

Do not lift anything heavier than 10 pounds for four weeks.

Do not drive for approximately one week or when you are no longer taking pain medication. Additionally, your reflexes should be fast enough to be safe. Everyone is different with this restriction as some people are not safe to drive for several weeks.

Do not run, lift weights, play tennis or golf for four weeks after surgery. It is important to keep your heart rate under 100 beats per minute for four weeks.

Light cardiovascular exercises can be resumed gradually after two weeks.

Heavy lifting/stretching (Yoga) can be resumed after four weeks.

### ***Massage Therapy***

Massage therapy can be beneficial following liposuction surgery beginning in the first week after the procedure. This is strongly encouraged by Dr. Haddock as it will provide a better result and a better post-operative experience.

You should call before your scheduled surgery date to set up an appointment within one week after your operation.

Suggested therapy is two to three times per week for three to four weeks. This allows for enhanced lymph drainage and for enhanced resolution of the swelling associated with liposuction.

We also recommend circular massages with a light fragrance free moisturizer in the areas of liposuction.

### ***Incision Care***

The incisions for liposuction are small (less than 1 cm) and usually placed in inconspicuous areas.

Dr. Haddock closes the liposuction incisions with stitches under the skin and one simple absorbable stitch in the skin. The incision is then covered with a butterfly bandage or band aid.

Minimal drainage is to be expected from the incisions.

You may shower the day after the operation. Make sure someone is with you at your first shower.

The liposuction garment or binder can be removed for showering. White foam pads can be replaced with the binder or garment if clean. Any gauze and tape can be discarded and do not need to be replaced after the first shower.

You may gently begin washing your incisions with mild soap and water, but do not submerge the incisions for at least three weeks.

If you have persistent sutures, they are most likely dissolvable and will disappear within the first few weeks

### *What to Expect after Liposuction Surgery*

Moderate swelling and induration (hardness) of the areas of liposuction is expected. This will subside in the first few months.

Bruising and swelling may spread to surrounding areas and regions of dependence, like knees, waist and genitals.

It is common to have discomfort and mild burning around the incisions after liposuction surgery. This is normal and will improve shortly after surgery.

Discomfort in the areas of liposuction may worsen with increased activity. Deep muscle tightness may worsen as well. Massage and anti-inflammatory medications will help this subside.

You can expect some slight bloody oozing from the incisions. Gauze may be reapplied if it is bothersome. However, you should call the clinic if you have continuous bleeding, significantly more swelling on one side than the other, or any severe pain associated with swelling.

Tightness of the underlying muscles is a normal feeling after this surgery. This may worsen over the first two days. This will relax with time and can be relieved with light activity and keeping compression on the area.

There may be a feeling of numbness of the liposuction areas that will subside with time.

Red discoloration of the incisions may occur if there is significant swelling, especially in the area of the sutures. This will resolve when the glue falls off and the stitches are removed.

Constipation is common after any operation, and is secondary to the anesthetic, pain medication and dehydration. Please stay well hydrated and use the recommended stool softener and/or laxative until bowels return to normal.

If fat grafting is performed than it is common these areas will feel swollen and firm. This will improve in the coming months.

### *When to Call the Office*

If you have increased swelling and bruising on one side of the body significantly more than the other. Remove the compression garment to make this determination. This may represent a hematoma (collection of blood) or a seroma (collection of clear fluid).

If you have increasing redness or swelling around the incision.

If you have severe pain not relieved by pain medication.

If you have any side effects from the medication: rash, nausea, headache, vomiting.

If you have fever over 101.

If you have yellow or greenish drainage from an incision or notice a foul odor.

If you notice some vaginal burning and itching as a result of the antibiotics used during and after surgery.

For medical questions, please call Dr. Haddock's nursing team at (214) 645-2353

Dr. Haddock will be contacted for any urgent or emergent medical issues.

### *Follow-up Care and Appointments*

You should schedule your follow-up visit with Dr. Haddock two to three weeks after surgery. Additional follow-up appointments will be discussed at that visit

Incisions will be evaluated and persistent stitches will be removed if not dissolved in one week. Generally they are dissolvable and will fall out.

Call to schedule your appointments at the UT Southwestern Medical Center Plastic Surgery Clinic at (214) 645-2353.

There are two nurse practitioners on Dr. Haddock's team. Jennifer Bell, MSN, APRN, AGACNP-BC, works in the hospital setting and Kristi Elliott, APRN, FNP-C, is in the clinic setting. They may both be involved in your perioperative care.

For any surgical scheduling concerns, please call: Lindsay Bolger at (214) 645-3118

For medical questions, please call Dr. Haddock's nursing team at (214) 645-2353 or MyChart out office. MyChart is the preferred way to communicate with the team for non-urgent concerns. These messages are not typically answered after hours.

Outpatient Surgery Center | Department of Plastic Surgery | UT Southwestern Medical Center

1801 Inwood Road | Dallas, TX 75390-9132 | (214) 645-2353

[www.drnicholashaddock.com](http://www.drnicholashaddock.com)

## *Suggested Shopping List*

### *Items to have on hand prior to surgery*

#### *Liposuction Surgery*

Visit <https://www.drnicholashaddock.com/supplies/> for links to purchase some of below.

- Prescriptions will be called into your local pharmacy as ordered by Dr. Haddock. Typical medications are as follows but these will be tailored to your needs.
  - Tylenol #3 or Tramadol (pain medication)
  
- Ibuprofen (Motrin)
  
- Gatorade or another low calorie alternative, such as water with electrolytes
  
- Protein Supplements
  
- Full length Lycra or Spandex girdle with or without zippers (can be obtained at a department store such as Nordstroms, Dillards or Neimans as well as online).
  
- Stool softener / laxative (choose one):
  - Ducosate (Colace) 100 mg orally two to three times daily when taking pain medication
  - Milk of Magnesia 30cc/1 Tablespoon twice daily when taking pain medication
  - Prune juice or Sorbitol orally
  - Biscodyl or Magnesium Citrate as needed for constipation
  
- Arnica montana and Bellis perennis can be taken to help with drain outputs, bruising, and swelling