

Body Lift



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS®

What are Body Lifts?

Aging, sun damage, pregnancy, significant fluctuations in weight, and genetic factors may contribute to poor tissue elasticity that can result in sagging of the abdomen, buttocks, and thighs.

A body lift improves the shape and tone of the underlying tissue that supports fat and skin. Excess sagging fat and skin are removed and the procedure(s) can improve a dimpled, irregular skin surface, which is commonly known as cellulite.

A body lift may include these areas:

- Abdominal area – locally or extending around the sides and into the lower back area
- Buttocks that may be low, flat, or shaped unevenly
- Groin that may sag into inner thigh
- Thigh – the inner, outer, or posterior thigh or the thigh's circumference

Body lifts are not intended strictly for the removal of excess fat. Liposuction alone can remove excess fat deposits where skin has good elasticity and is able to naturally conform to new body contours. In cases where skin elasticity is poor, a combination of liposuction and body lift techniques may be recommended.

In general, candidates for a body lift include:

- Individuals with significant soft tissue looseness in one or multiple body areas
- Healthy individuals without medical conditions that impair healing or increase risk of surgery
- Individuals with a positive outlook and realistic goals for what body lift surgery can accomplish
- Non-smokers/vapers
- Individuals committed to leading a healthy lifestyle with proper nutrition and fitness



Consultation & Preparing for Surgery

Be prepared to discuss the following during your consultation:

- Your surgical goals
- Medical conditions, drug allergies, and previous medical treatments
- Current medications, vitamins, herbal supplements, alcohol, tobacco, and drug use
- Previous surgeries

Your plastic surgeon will also:

- Evaluate your general health status and any preexisting health conditions or risk factors
- Examine and assess your body, this may include detailed body measurements
- Take photographs
- Discuss your options and recommend a course of treatment
- Discuss the possible outcomes of body lift surgery, as well as any risks or potential complications
- Discuss the use of anesthesia during your surgery



Body lift surgery may be performed in an accredited outpatient facility or in an ambulatory surgical center or a hospital. Prior to surgery, you may be asked to:

- Have a physical examination, including lab work
- Take certain medications or adjust your current medications
- Stop smoking or vaping*
- Avoid taking aspirin and certain anti-inflammatory drugs, as they can increase bleeding

**Smoking decreases blood flow, which can impede wound healing and increase the risk of infection.*

Be sure to ask your plastic surgeon questions. It's very important to understand all aspects of your body lift surgery, especially regarding your personal health history. It's natural to feel some anxiety, whether it's excitement for your anticipated new look or a bit of preoperative stress. Don't be shy about discussing these feelings with your plastic surgeon.

The Procedure

Body lifts are surgical procedures and they require extensive incisions. Incision length and pattern depend on the amount and location of excess skin to be removed, as well as your surgeon's judgment. Advanced techniques usually allow incisions to be placed in strategic locations where they can be hidden by most types of clothing and swimsuits.

One common technique of complete lower body lift uses incisions similar to a bikini pattern to tighten the abdomen, groin, waist, thigh, and buttock in one procedure.

- An incision around the circumference of the body removes an apron of excess skin and fat while repositioning and tightening tissues
- A combination of liposuction and surgical body lifts may be necessary to achieve an improved contour
- Deep support sutures within underlying tissues help to form the newly shaped contours
- Sutures, skin adhesives, tapes, or clips close the skin incisions

Step 1 – Anesthesia

Medications are administered for your comfort during the surgical procedure. The choices include intravenous sedation and general anesthesia. Your doctor will recommend the best choice for you.

Step 2 – The incision

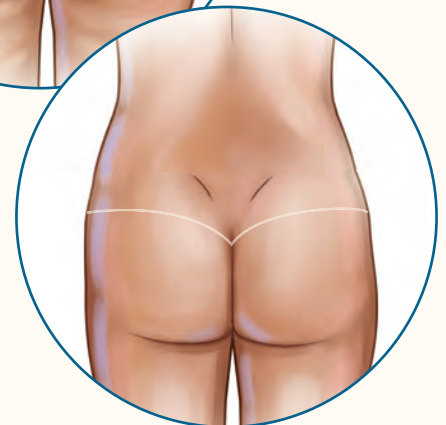
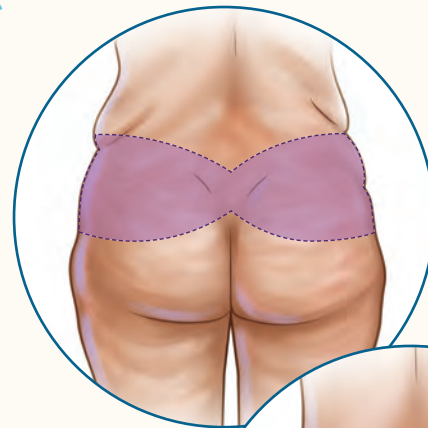
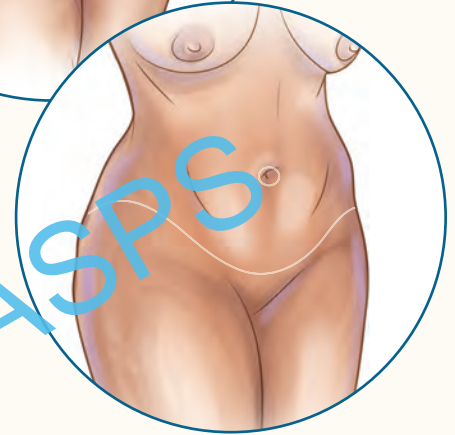
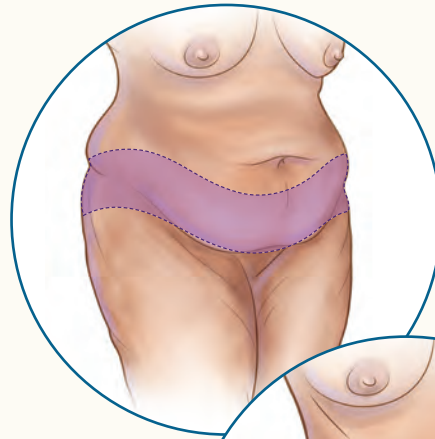
A complete lower body lift treats the buttocks, abdomen, waist, hips, and thighs in one procedure. A circumferential incision around the body removes an apron of excess skin and fat and repositions and tightens tissues.

Step 3 – Closing the incisions

Sutures, skin adhesives, or tapes close the skin incisions.

Step 4 – See the results

The results of a body lift are visible almost immediately. It may take as long as one to two years for the final results to fully develop.



Risks & Safety

The decision to undergo body lift surgery is extremely personal. You will have to decide if the benefits will achieve your goals and if the risks and potential complications are acceptable. Your surgeon should review with you the relevant risks for your specific procedure.

You may be asked to sign a consent form to ensure that you fully understand the procedure and any risks and potential complications. You should feel free to ask any questions to help you understand those risks.



Risks can include:

- Anesthesia risks
- Bleeding (hematoma)
- Infection
- Poor wound healing
- Fluid accumulation (blood or serum)
- Numbness or other changes in skin sensation
- Fatty tissue found deep in the skin might die (fat necrosis)
- Pain, which may persist
- Recurrent looseness of skin
- Persistent swelling in the legs
- Asymmetries
- Deep vein thrombosis, cardiac and pulmonary complications
- Possible need for revisional surgery
- Skin loss
- Sutures may spontaneously surface through the skin, become visible, or produce irritation and require removal
- Unfavorable scarring

All risks will be fully discussed prior to your consent. It is important that you address all your questions directly with your plastic surgeon.

Other Considerations

- Body lift surgery is not guaranteed to last a lifetime and future surgery may be required in some cases to achieve your goals.
- Pregnancy, weight loss/gain, and menopause may change the appearance of your body over the course of your lifetime.
- Although good results are expected from your procedure, there is no guarantee. In some situations, it may not be possible to achieve optimal results with a single surgical procedure and another surgery may be necessary.

Recovery and Results

After your body lift procedure is completed, dressings or bandages will be applied to the incisions. Small, thin tubes may be temporarily placed under the skin to drain any excess blood that may collect.

You will be given specific instructions that may include how to care for your surgical site(s) following surgery, medications to apply or take orally to aid healing and reduce the risk of infection, specific concerns to look for at the surgical site or in your general health, how to care for your drains, and when to follow up with your plastic surgeon.

Be sure to ask your plastic surgeon specific questions about what you can expect during your individual recovery period.

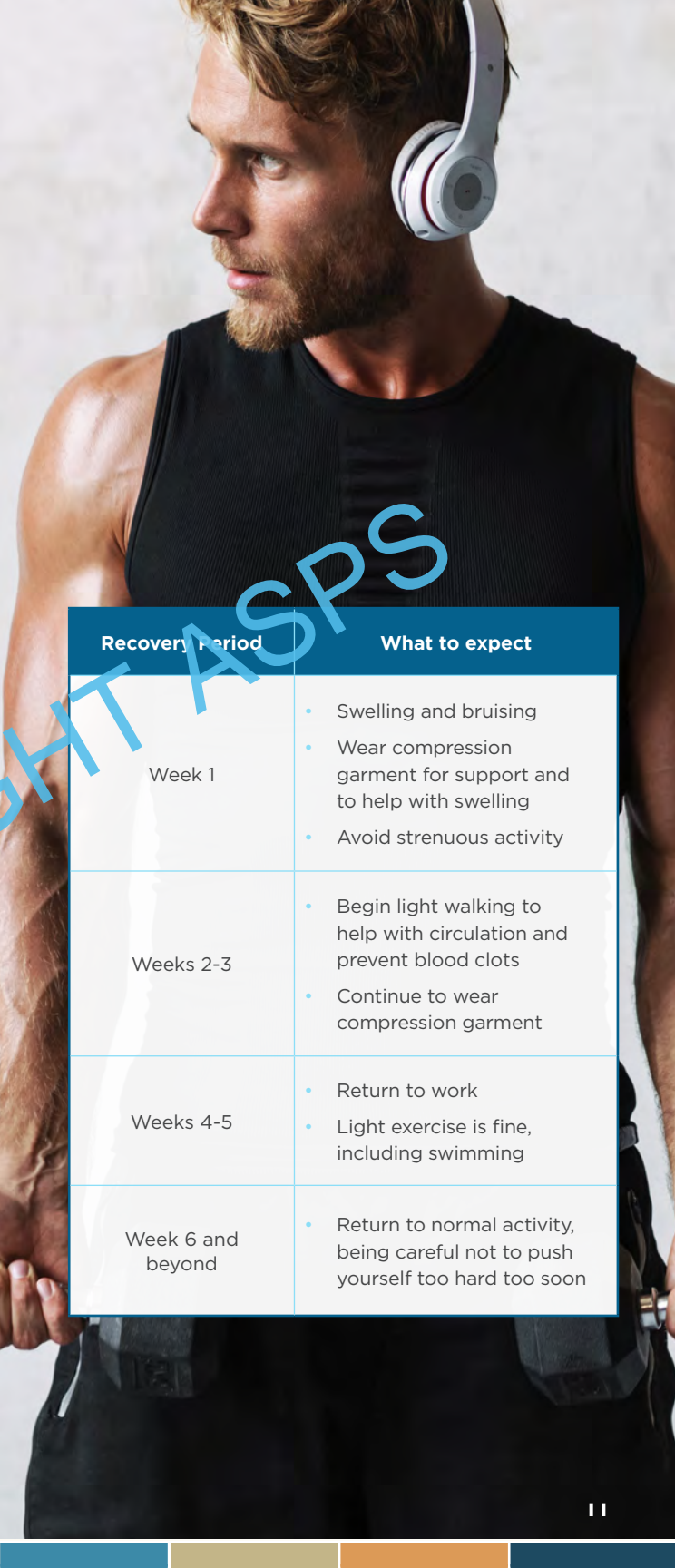
- Where will I be taken after my surgery is complete?
- What medication will I be given or prescribed after surgery?
- Will I have dressings/bandages after surgery?
- When will they be removed?
- How should I bathe after surgery?
- When will the drains be removed?
- When can I resume normal activity and exercise?
- When do I return for follow-up care?

When you go home:

If you experience shortness of breath, chest pains, or unusual heart beats, seek medical attention immediately. Should any of these complications occur, you may require hospitalization and additional treatment.

Results:

The results of a body lift are visible almost immediately. However, it may take two years or more for the final results of the body lift procedures to fully develop. Some visible scars will remain, but the overall results are long lasting, provided that you maintain a stable weight and general fitness. As your body ages, it is natural to lose some firmness. However, most of your initial improvement should be relatively permanent.



Recovery Period	What to expect
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swelling and bruising• Wear compression garment for support and to help with swelling• Avoid strenuous activity
Weeks 2-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begin light walking to help with circulation and prevent blood clots• Continue to wear compression garment
Weeks 4-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Return to work• Light exercise is fine, including swimming
Week 6 and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Return to normal activity, being careful not to push yourself too hard too soon

Cost

Prices for body lift surgery can vary. A surgeon's cost may be based on his or her experience, the type of procedure used, and geographic office location.

Cost may include:

- Anesthesia fees
- Hospital or surgical facility costs
- Medical tests
- Post-surgery garments
- Prescriptions for medication
- Surgeon's fee

Most health insurance plans do not cover body lift surgery, as it is considered cosmetic surgery. Please ask your surgeon for a complete picture of the costs you can expect for your body lift. Many plastic surgeons offer patient financing plans.

Your satisfaction involves more than a fee:

When choosing a plastic surgeon for a body lift procedure, remember that the surgeon's experience and your comfort with him or her are just as important as the final cost of the surgery.

Words to know

- **Abdominoplasty:** A surgical procedure to correct the apron of excess skin hanging over your abdomen.
- **Circumferential incision:** A surgical incision around the body to remove the "belt" of excess skin and fat and additional incisions that may resemble a bikini bottom pattern.
- **Circumferential thigh lift:** A surgical procedure to correct sagging of the outer and mid-thigh.
- **General anesthesia:** Drugs and/or gases used during an operation to relieve pain and alter consciousness.
- **Hematoma:** Blood pooling beneath the skin.
- **Intravenous sedation:** Sedatives administered by injection into a vein to help you relax.
- **Liposuction:** Also called lipoplasty or suction lipectomy, this procedure vacuums out fat from beneath the skin's surface to reduce fullness.
- **Local anesthesia:** A drug injected directly to the site of an incision during an operation to relieve pain.
- **Lower body lift:** Surgical procedure to correct sagging of the abdomen, buttocks, groin, and outer thighs.
- **Macerated skin:** Excess skin that hangs and becomes wet or infected underneath.
- **Medial thigh lift:** A surgical procedure to correct sagging of the inner thigh.
- **Sutures:** Stitches used by surgeons to hold skin and tissue together.
- **Tummy tuck:** A surgical procedure to correct the apron of excess skin hanging over your abdomen.

Questions to ask my plastic surgeon

- ☐ Are you certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery?
- ☐ Are you a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons?
- ☐ Were you trained specifically in the field of plastic surgery?
- ☐ How many years of plastic surgery training have you had?
- ☐ Do you have hospital privileges to perform this procedure? If so, at which hospitals?
- ☐ Is the office-based surgical facility accredited by a nationally- or state-recognized accrediting agency, or is it state-licensed or Medicare-certified?
- ☐ Am I a good candidate for this procedure?
- ☐ What will be expected of me to get the best results?
- ☐ Where and how will you perform my procedure?
- ☐ What surgical technique is recommended for me?
- ☐ How long of a recovery period can I expect, and what kind of help will I need during my recovery?
- ☐ What are the risks and complications associated with my procedure?
- ☐ How are complications handled?
- ☐ What are my options if I am dissatisfied with the outcome?
- ☐ Do you have before-and-after photos I can look at for this procedure and what results are reasonable for me?

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Make the Right Choice

Plastic surgery involves many choices. The first and most important is selecting a member of the **American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS)**.

ASPS member surgeons meet rigorous standards:

- Board certification by the American Board of Plastic Surgery (ABPS)® or in Canada by The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada*
- Complete at least six years of surgical training following medical school with a minimum of three years of plastic surgery residency training
- Pass comprehensive oral and written exams
- Graduate from an accredited medical school
- Complete continuing medical education, including patient safety each year
- Perform surgery in accredited, state-licensed, or Medicare-certified surgical facilities

Do not be confused by other official-sounding boards and certifications.

The ABPS is recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), which has approved medical specialty boards since 1934. There is no ABMS-recognized certifying board with “cosmetic surgery” in its name. By choosing a member of The American Society of Plastic Surgeons, you can be assured that you are choosing a qualified, highly trained plastic surgeon who is board certified by the ABPS or The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.



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The American Society of Plastic Surgeons® (ASPS®) is dedicated to advancing quality care in plastic surgery by encouraging high standards in training, ethics, physician practice, research, and continuing medical education. ASPS members are certified by The American Board of Plastic Surgery® (ABPS) in The United States and its territories or The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada®.

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