

TREATMENT 3: LIPODISSOLVE

Cure Lipodissolve, a variation of mesotherapy, is considered safer and more effective than mesotherapy for combatting cellulite. The products used for injection are patient-specific combinations of natural vitamins and herbal products such as soybean lecithin that contain enzymes capable of burning away stubborn cellulite deposits in the stomach, thighs and butt. Although widely practised, Lipodissolve has not received Health Canada approval, since pharmacists still customize the injectible materials based on patient needs and physicians' requests, says Martin Braun of the Vancouver Laser and Skin Care Centre (www.vancouverlaser.com), who charges upwards of \$1,000 for the eight-week, four-treatment plan. In Edmonton, cosmetic dermatologist Dr. Barry Lycka (www.barrylyckamd.com) charges about \$2,000 for Lipodissolve and Endermologie combined.

Ill-advised for women who are more than 25 pounds overweight, diabetics, chronically ill patients or anyone allergic to the injectible materials.

Lure Both Braun and Lycka report stunning results in combination with VelaSmooth or its predecessor, Endermologie, labelling the procedure a cheaper, less invasive alternative to liposuction. According to Braun, the injectible materials used in Lipodissolve target the beta receptors in fat cells, which trigger faster fat metabolism and melt away the surrounding damaged cellular connective tissue that, together with distorted lumps of fat, create cellulite.

Ouch factor Usually described as a perched-on-a-pincushion sensation; occasionally causes minor skin irritation, swelling or bruising. □

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