

Going Home

You should not plan to drive yourself home. It is recommended that you have a responsible adult at home with you on the day of surgery.

Diet

Please refer to preparing for your Vaser treatment sheet. We encourage you to drink plenty of water post treatment.

Physical Activity

Quiet rest is recommended for the first few hours immediately after surgery. Do not drive or operate hazardous machinery for 48 hours after surgery, longer if you're taking medication which can make you drowsy such as Codeine and/or you have pain or restricted movement that may affect your driving. Do not make any important personal decisions for 24 hours after surgery. 1-2 days after Vaser surgery you can engage in light physical activities we recommend lots of gentle walking. You may carefully resume exercise and physical activity 14-21 days after surgery. It is suggested that you begin with 25% of your normal workout and then increase your daily activity as tolerated. Most people can return to a desk job within 3-4 days after surgery, although one must expect to be sore and easily fatigued for several days.

Elastic Compression Garments and Foam pads.

Garments are designed specifically for Vaser liposuction to provide firm compression to help prevent bleeding and encourage maximum drainage of residual blood-tinged anaesthetic solution and swelling. Beginning 24 hours after surgery, the post-op garments can be removed daily to permit you to shower and to wash the garments, however try not to keep it off for longer than 30- 45 minutes each day. When you are not wearing it (i.e. washing it) try to rest and keep any movements minimal. This is especially important in the first 3 days as the compression helps the body form stable clots thereby reducing the chance of severe bruising and haematomas.

If you have been supplied with foam inserts these need to be worn under the garment as soon as possible once the majority of leaking had stopped, usually 48 hours. Place a sterile dressing (sterile gauze or adhesive wound dressing over any wounds (i.e. tummy button area) before applying the foam pad over them. The foam insert has an adhesive backing which needs to be removed and then stick the insert directly to the skin. These need to be worn for 1-2 weeks if possible. If you have any concerns about the pads please ask.

If you have been asked to wear a binder or foam corset these will usually be fitted immediately after your surgery. Please see the label on these for washing instructions. Try to wear these for 2-4 weeks. If you are finding it difficult wearing the binder please contact us as soon as possible. Many patients choose to buy a second garment for convenience.

Depending on what areas you are having treated and how swollen you are you will be advised to wear your compression garment for 2-6 weeks.

Garment wear is essential post operatively so if you have any concerns regarding your garment please contact us immediately.

Discomfort / Pain

Again this differs between individuals and areas treated. Areas that prove difficult to rest such as the thighs due to sitting are usually more uncomfortable than other areas such as the chin and arms. Hi/Mid definition on the abdomen is usually more painful than normal Vaser Liposuction. You can expect it to be painful for the first 2-5 days after treatment and most likely you will require the prescribed painkillers. During the first 2-5 days we advise refraining for work and stick to gentle activities in or around the house. Short, frequent walking is encouraged when possible. After 3-4 days the discomfort usually settles substantially to a deep ache, akin to a strenuous workout. This then usually settles within 1-4 weeks. However when applying pressure to the treated area or during vigorous activities you may still experience a mild dull ache for some months.

Dizziness and Fainting

Patients can sometimes experience some weakness and mild dizziness for a couple of days after Vaser Liposuction. Try to take regular rest and don't over do things. It is not uncommon to have a brief sensation of dizziness when standing up, so do this slowly. Should dizziness occur simply lie down and bend your knees until it passes.

More pronounced dizziness or even fainting can sometimes happen when you first take off your compression garment and stand up too quickly or take it off whilst standing. It is the result of rapid decompression of the legs after the post-op garments are removed. Again should dizziness or faintness occur, simply sit or lie down and bend your knees until it passes. For the first 2-3 days it is recommended that you remove the garment when lying down, i.e. unclip it, lie still for a few minutes and then slowly stand up.

If possible ask someone to help you with the garment for the first couple of days.

Fainting at the Sight of Blood

Some people have a tendency to faint upon the sight of blood. Such persons should anticipate such a problem when removing blood-tinged absorbent pads when changing dressing after liposuction.

Fainting after Urination.

On the morning after childbirth women have an increased risk of fainting if they stand up too fast immediately after urinating. This is known as post-micturation syncope. A similar situation occurs the after liposuction. You should stand up slowly after urinating. In order to avoid a serious injury from a fall, if dizziness does occur, you should sit or lie down on the floor immediately. It is recommended that you do not lock your bathroom door so that someone can come to assist if necessary.

Managing Post-Op Drainage

You should expect a large volume of blood-tinged anaesthetic solution to drain from the small incisions/drains during the first 24 to 48 hours following tumescent liposuction. In general, the more drainage there is, the less bruising and swelling there will be. The dressings and pads should be worn day and night over the wounds/ drains until 24 hours beyond the time when all the drainage has completely stopped. In the unlikely event that you run short of dressings you can purchase more from a pharmacy or contact us for some more. Do not be concerned if you have drainage for several days (see wound care and bathing below).

Leaks beyond the pads can occur. During the first 36 hours, when sitting or lying down, you should place absorbent terrycloth towels beneath you in order to protect your furniture from any unexpected leak of blood-tinged drainage. When there is a large amount of drainage, it is advisable to place a plastic sheet beneath the towel.

Wound Care & Bathing

Caring for your wounds and dealing with the leakage can be a little daunting in the first 1-2 days particularly if you are on your own. If possible ask someone to help you.

Keep incisions clean. Shower once daily starting 24 hours after your treatment. After thoroughly washing your hands gently wash the incisions with sterile gauze or sterile saline (sterile saline spray such as Stericlens is very good) – If you can't get a hold of sterile saline, boil some water and add half a teaspoon of salt. Afterwards gently pat the incisions dry with a clean towel. If the incisions are still leaking (i.e. in the first 1-3 days) apply some sterile gauze directly over the incisions followed by the absorbent pads. If the leaking is minimal you will not need the pads just the sterile gauze. Use the tape to secure if necessary otherwise the compression garment can be used to hold the dressings in place. When an incision has ceased draining for more than a few hours we recommend applying a sterile adhesive wound dressing. Change these as required with clean hands and keep the wounds clean with sterile gauze soaked in mild soapy water or sterile saline solution. Keep wounds covered for 7-12 days.

If you have any concerns with your wound healing, dressings, leaking or infection please contact us immediately.

Antibiotics

Take the antibiotics as directed until the prescription is finished. Take the antibiotics with food. Call our practice if you notice signs of infection (see burns and infections below).

Nausea

Nausea and vomiting are among the side effects that may be associated with liposuction especially in the first 1-2 days. Nausea can be caused by pain, antibiotics, Lorazepam, IV sedation, Local anaesthesia and Co-Codamol. Drink plenty of water or sports drinks but avoid fizzy drinks and juices. Eat when tolerated but stick to small, bland foods. After eating don't lie flat immediately afterwards but try to sit or rest with your head elevated.

Burns and Infection

We have a very low infection rate (under 0.5%) at our clinic. But unfortunately infections are a complication of any surgery. Infection risk is reduced with the antibiotics supplied to you and taking care of your incisions (see above). All surgical incisions will be red, painful and may ooze some fluid immediately after surgery but they should improve over the following days. Signs of infections may include:

- Redness worsening not improving, getting bigger, more painful, hotter and the area becoming harder.
- a yellow or green discharge develops
- wound produces an offensive odour
- you develop a fever

If you think you are developing an infection contact us immediately.

Whilst infections are most likely to develop around the incision sites they may also develop elsewhere so if you notice a spreading, red, increasingly painful, warm, hardening, area developing on your skin anywhere on you treated areas even away from your wounds, contact us immediately.

Burns again are very rare, blistering, skin breakdown and/or the development of small-localized dark (sometimes painful) red lesions within the treated area should also be reported immediately.

If you have been fitted with drains see below for care instructions.

Please do not bath or swim until the wounds are dry and healed, normally about 2 weeks post treatment.

After 2-3 weeks we advise application of silicon dressings/creams (eg.Dermatix) to the small wounds, these can decrease the healing time and help soften and reduce long-term scar formation.

Menstrual Irregularities

Menstrual irregularities may occur for a month or so after liposuction. Premature or delayed onset of monthly menstruation is a possible side effect of any significant surgery.

Temperature Elevation

Slight temperature elevation during the first 48 hours after surgery is a natural consequence of the body's reaction to surgical trauma. However, if you have any elevated temperature accompanied by signs of infection (see above) or a temperature over 38°C without further signs of an infection, especially if it develops more than 3 days after your surgery, you should stay at home & contact us immediately.

Swelling

The degree and duration of swelling differs from area to area and person to person. If excessive swelling persists for more the several weeks it can then start to interfere with cosmetic results we therefore recommend everything possible to reduce its amount and duration.

To reduce swelling it helps to self-massage the area with clean hands on the treated areas when possible (e.g. when showering). We can provide you videos to help with this.

It is a must for you to self-isolate after your procedure for 3 days therefore your MLD treatment with a qualified therapist can start after this period. We can help you organise these.

Most swelling maximizes at 4-6 days and then slowly resolves over a period of 2-6 weeks, when you will start to see the results. We recommend 3-7 MLD sessions in the first 2-3 weeks depending on what areas and how many areas you have had treated and how swollen you are. Hi and Mid definition Vaser requires more frequent MLD sessions preferably with a trained therapist. At your post op check if there is still apparent excessive swelling we may recommend further MLD to help with this. To help with the swelling we also recommend not sitting (especially hunched over a desk with a computer for example) for periods of longer then 20-30 minutes without standing up and stretching. This will help prevent the swelling form pooling around the lower abdomen/groin area.

Following treatment on the abdominal area this will naturally feel tight and may cause you to want to curl forwards. Try to resist this and keep you back straight and chest out, with regular stretching (arching back). This may be quite painful and feel very tight.

If the abdominal area has been treated it is not uncommon to develop swelling and bruising in the genital area. This is nothing to be concerned about as it resolves within a few days.

Wearing the compression garment helps control the swelling (see above). To ensure that the area treated is compressed at all times in the first 2 weeks we recommend that a second garment is purchased to put on when the other is being washed.

Wear the compression garment day and night for 2-6 weeks or longer if advised (except bathing and washing the garment). After 2-6 weeks try and wear it either during the day or night for a further two weeks or purchase a specific softer, shapewear second stage garment.

Irregularities and lumpiness can occur and will usually resolve itself within weeks. Gentle self-massage to any lumpiness starting 2-3 days after your procedure will help with this. Wearing the compression garment will also help with any temporary irregularities. Treatments such as Velashape and/or lymphatic massage can help speed up resolution of irregularities and lumpiness. For more information on these treatments please ask our reception staff to book this for you if required.

For treatments on the abdomen and flanks try not to wear tight belts or trousers for 2-3 weeks as this could compromise the internal drainage of the swelling and hence the results.

Please remember although results will start to become apparent at around 6 weeks when most of the swelling subsides it does take around 5-6 months to see the full results.

Avoid Aspirin and Ibuprofen

For 3 days after surgery do not take aspirin or ibuprofen or similar NSAIDS (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) such as Ibuprofen. NSAIDS can promote bleeding by impairing platelet function. NSAIDS also depress the immune response to infection by impairing white blood cell function.

Bruising

Bruising can occur. The more extensive the liposuction surgery, the more bruising one can expect. Bruising is more common on the legs and some patients have more of a tendency to bruise than others. Arnica gel or ointment is very good for bruising.

Seromas and Haematomas

Very occasionally you might get a build-up of trapped inflammatory fluid under the skin causing a soft palpable lump. This may be a seroma and might need to be aspirated. Sometimes you can experience a small bleed under the skin leading to a mass of clotted blood (called a haematoma). Again this may need to be aspirated or drained. Whilst not a clinical emergency it is best to manage these sooner rather than later so if you have any concerns about seromas or haematomas please contact the clinic during office hours so we can arrange an appointment with Dr Comins.

Itching

Itching of the treated areas several days after surgery may occur as part of the normal healing process. To help relieve the itching, you may try taking antihistamines such as Benadryl as directed on the packaging. Be aware that Benadryl causes drowsiness. You may also try using oatmeal soap. After the 7th postoperative day, provided that the incisions are well healed, you may soak in a bath with an oatmeal bath preparation. Benadryl and oatmeal products may be purchased at most pharmacies.

Stitches, Drains and Steristrips

Sometimes you will have open corrugated drains sutured into your lower abdominal area to help with drainage. These will need to be removed after 2-3 days. Drains are best kept clean using a sterile saline spray 1-2 x daily (can be bought online or from most pharmacies) and then covered with sterile gauze following by the pads.

If you have stitches/sutures these will require removal after 5-10 days. Sometimes depending on the incision site, Steristrips will suffice. Try to keep the Steristrips as dry as possible. These should be removed after 5-6 days.

VTE (Venous Thromboembolism)

Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) and Pulmonary Embolism (PE) are very unlikely with this type of surgery. If you have been fitted with compression stockings wear these until you can freely start walking, usually 1-2 days after your Vaser. Drink plenty of fluids to keep hydrated. Do try to take short walks (even around the house) as often as possible. If you find yourself sitting for periods of longer than 1-2 hours at a time it is important to stand up, stretch and have a short walk. This is important for DVT prevention and it also helps with the swelling. If you can't manage to walk try rotating the ankles and wiggling the toes every 60 minutes or so.

It is not recommended to fly long haul for 10-14 days or fly short haul for 3-4 days after your treatment. If you have had your thighs or calves treated we may recommend waiting longer until you fly. If you have any concerns or issues regarding flying after your treatment please contact us. If you notice some obvious swelling in your calf (usually one leg), deep cramp like pain and/or discoloration in your calf you may have a DVT so please contact us. If you develop sudden shortness of breath, sharp chest pain usually worsening on a deep breath, contact us immediately.

Numbness

Numbness after Vaser liposuction can sometimes occur for several weeks to months following. As the nerves to the area are traumatized and will then experience a temporary neuropraxia, a transient loss of nerve conduction. This usually resolves over the next 6-12 weeks, but depending on the area treated and type of Vaser performed (Hi Def etc.) it is sometimes longer.

Do not apply any excessively hot or cold compression to the treatments areas after your treatment if your skin feels numb as this could lead to a burn.

We have put together an aftercare video to help with Wound dressings, Foam inserts, Garments and Binders. Please click [here](#) to access this.

Follow up is important so please make an appointment, for your first check up 1-3 weeks after your treatment (or sooner if advised by Dr Comins). This may be done via online video unless otherwise advised.

If you have any concerns, complications or questions during normal office hours, please do not hesitate to call the practice 0207 584 1642. Together with The Private Clinic Group we run an out of hour emergency service, please see separate sheet titled: 'Hans Place Practice Emergency 'On Call' Patient Information'

