

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Media contact: Theresa Merola Hernandez

214-648-3404

theresa.merola@email.swmed.edu

PATIENTS NEEDED FOR LIPOSUCTION STUDY

DALLAS – December 1, 1999 – Plastic surgeons at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas are seeking 13 patients to participate in a national study comparing different methods of liposuction.

Mentor Corp., a Santa Barbara, Calif.-based firm that manufactures products for aesthetic and reconstructive procedures, initiated the study to compare the safety and effectiveness of traditional liposuction with ultrasound-assisted lipoplasty (UAL).

Dr. Jeffrey Kenkel, vice chairman of plastic surgery, is overseeing the UT Southwestern portion of the study. He will test UAL, which uses ultrasound waves to melt the fat before it is removed.

Kenkel recently performed UAL on a patient's abdominal area, inner and outer thighs, hips, lower back and buttocks. Mary Smith (whose name has been changed), a medical sales executive from Plano, said she went through early menopause at 40 and started to gain weight. "I've been athletic all my life, and it started to bother me that I was putting on weight," she said.

The 54-year-old said she felt sore after surgery and was told by Kenkel to restrain from vigorous exercise for at least six weeks. "The feeling is similar to the sensation when you throw out your back," she said. "The muscles are telling your body that they aren't ready to move around."

Smith felt fine after five weeks. "I travel a lot with my job, and I was lifting bags into overhead bins on airplanes.

"I love the results. Now I wear clothes that haven't fit me in years."

Men and women 18 years of age and older may be eligible for the study. Those who qualify to participate must agree to follow the appointment schedule and complete the necessary procedure. The study schedule requires three follow-up visits with Kenkel. After completing the study, the patient may be asked to continue in a longer-term follow-up program.

Participants will fill out questionnaires during the initial pre-surgery visit and during the three-month follow-up visit. The questionnaires will measure how patients feel about their bodies before and after surgery. A small amount of blood will be drawn from participants at five intervals to check for abnormalities.

Twenty medical centers around the country are taking part in the research project. Participants will pay for the surgery just like regular patients, including surgeon's, anesthesia and hospital fees. The participants will receive \$1,500 at the end of the three-month study.

For more information, call UT Southwestern research associate Debby Noble at 214-648-8686.

###

This news release is available on our World Wide Web home page at
http://www.swmed.edu/home_pages/news/

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER AT DALLAS

Southwestern Medical School • Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences • Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School
Affiliated teaching hospitals and outpatient clinics

Office of News and Publications • 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas TX 75235-9060 • Telephone (214) 648-3404 • FAX (214) 648-9119