

Common risks associated with panniculectomy:

- The most common risk is scarring. Scars usually will fade with time, but should be considered permanent.
- Infection, bleeding, and wound healing difficulties are a risk of any type of surgery and it is very important to discuss your medical history with your surgeon prior to undergoing any type of elective surgery.

What to do if you are thinking about panniculectomy surgery:

- Discuss this with your Primary Care Physician and/or your bariatric surgeon.
- Call 617-732-5282 to make an appointment.
- Prior to the appointment, get a referral from your Primary Care Physician, if applicable.
- Check with your insurance company about your specific coverage plan for panniculectomy surgery.
- Your surgeon may require that you have a mammogram prior to surgery.

Insurance Coverage for Panniculectomy

- After your consultation, the medical information from your visit is sent to your insurance company for authorization. This process can take from 14-60 days.
- Based on your height, weight, and other medical information, your insurance company will make the decision about whether to cover your panniculectomy. **Please note, all insurance companies have different criteria for coverage.**
- You may be required to pay deductibles and co-payments with your surgery. You should check with you insurance company directly regarding any co-payments or deductibles.
- Prior authorization is not a guarantee of payment.
- If your insurance company denies coverage, you may:
 - Pay the full cost of the surgery.
 - Start an appeal with your insurance company. Your insurance company will provide you with reasons for denial of coverage and give you information on how to start an appeal.



BRIGHAM AND
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

Division of Plastic Surgery

Thinking About: Panniculectomy?

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For more information or to schedule an appointment,
call:

617-732-5282

Or visit our website at:

[www.brighamandwomens.org/departments_ and_services/surgery/services/plasticsurg](http://www.brighamandwomens.org/departments_and_services/surgery/services/plasticsurg)

Panniculectomy may be an option to remove the excess skin that hangs below the level of the pubis in men and women who meet the following criteria:

- 75lbs of weight loss following gastric bypass surgery, lap band surgery, or diet and exercise.
- Body mass index (BMI) less than or equal to 30.
- Documented stable weight over a period of 3 to 6 months.
- Documented recurrent or chronic rashes, infections, or non-healing ulcers caused by the excess skin that do not respond to treatment for a period of 3 to 6 months.
- Functional impairments caused by the excess skin making mobility difficult.

Other facts:

- If a patient has had gastric bypass surgery, he/she must usually be at least one year post-operative before having a panniculectomy.
- Our surgeons require that you **stop smoking** before surgery. You must stop using all nicotine products, including patches and gum, one month before scheduling surgery. **For information on how to quit, please call 617-732-8983.**

What is the difference between a panniculectomy and an abdominoplasty (tummy tuck)?

- A panniculectomy is a functional operation designed to remove the overhanging pannus to reduce the complications of rashes/ulcerations and mobility issues after massive weight loss.
- A panniculectomy does not address upper abdominal folds or contours and is not a weight loss or cosmetic body contouring surgery.
- An abdominoplasty is a cosmetic operation designed to re-contour the abdomen and tighten the abdominal muscles while removing excess overhanging tissue. This surgery is not covered by insurance.
- Your surgeon will help you decide which procedure is right for you.

BEFORE SURGERY

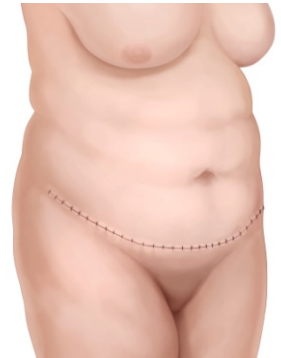


PANNICULECTOMY:

INCISION

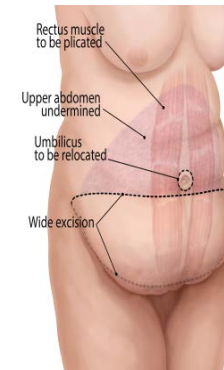


AFTER HEALING



ABDOMINOPLASTY:

INCISION



AFTER HEALING

