



Anne Dancey
PLASTIC SURGERY

Update on response to NICE announcement

This is an update to my [previous response](#) on the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines concerning liposuction in chronic lipoedema. Hopefully, this will help further inform patients with accurate and reliable information and prevent unnecessary confusion, conjecture, or generalisation.

A small number of my colleagues with an interest in lipoedema have also suspended rehabilitative liposuction. This does not apply to those patients who require surgery to their abdomen, flanks, back or those who require skin removal with contouring liposuction to treat the cosmetic appearance. These are cosmetic procedures, and the intent is not to improve the symptoms of lipoedema (pain, heaviness, bruising and limited mobility).

I am working closely with the British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS) and NICE. At a recent meeting, it was made clear by NICE that the guidelines can only be reviewed on the submission of new scientific evidence. There is particular interest in the results from a study currently being undertaken in Germany, yet this will take a few years to complete.

NICE are also prepared to look at a retrospective audit of my rehabilitative liposuction results to date on the basis it has been peer-reviewed. However, this will take time and with no certainty that this will be successful.

Separately, and as mentioned previously, Harley Street Specialist Hospital (HSSH) in London have shown strong interest in supporting their own research study which will satisfy NICE's guidelines. I am very grateful that the Hospital are prepared to consider this.

However, approval for any study is required first by an Ethics Committee. I was hopeful that this could possibly be established this summer, however, the process and resourcing are taking time to put in place and are beyond my control. I now understand that the Ethics Committee will look at a study proposal from the consultant lead for research at HSSH this month (August 2022). Once a study is established, and I have secured the full support of the Hospital, I will then be able to restart my lipoedema practice. Until such time, I am still unable to offer any firm dates for surgery.

I understand that some patients cannot wait and wish to pursue treatment from other providers, possibly in the UK and abroad and I will support this where necessary.

Caring for lipoedema patients remains my priority. I understand the enormous impact that my decision to suspend rehabilitative liposuction has had on patients, especially those in mid-treatment. Please be assured that I am doing everything possible to find a workable way forward. If you have any further questions then please speak directly to either me or my secretary,

Best wishes,

Anne



Anne Dancey

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon