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## **TUMMY TUCK (ABDOMINOPLASTY) EXPERIENCE**

What happens during tummy tuck surgery?

You will be placed under either intravenous sedation or general anesthesia. A full tummy tuck requires a horizontally-oriented incision in the area between the pubic hairline and belly button.

The shape and length of the incision will be determined by the amount of excess skin. Once the abdominal skin is lifted, the underlying weakened abdominal muscles are repaired.

A second incision around the navel may be necessary to remove excess skin in the upper abdomen.

The upper abdominal skin is pulled down like a window shade. The excess skin is trimmed and the remaining skin is sutured together. A new opening for the belly button is created. The belly button is popped through to the surface and sutured into position.

Sutures, skin adhesives, tapes or clips close the skin incisions.

Your tummy tuck will result in a flatter, firmer abdominal contour that is more proportionate with your body type and weight.

### **Recovery:**

During your **tummy tuck recovery**, dressings or bandages may be applied to your incisions, and you may be wrapped in an elastic bandage or a compression garment to minimize swelling and support your abdomen as it heals following surgery.

Small, thin tubes may be temporarily placed under the skin to drain any excess blood or fluid that may collect.

The final **results of tummy tuck surgery** may be initially obscured by swelling and your inability to stand fully upright until internal healing is complete.

Within a week or two, you should be standing tall and confident in your new slimmer profile.

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### **Tummy tuck scarring**

In women who have undergone cesarean section, the existing scars may be incorporated into the new scar.

The tummy tuck scar may take several months to a year to fade as much as it will.

Although good results are expected from your procedure, there is no guarantee. In some situations, it may not be possible to achieve optimal results with a single surgical procedure and another surgery may be necessary.

Following your instructions is essential to the success of your surgery.

It's important that the surgical incisions are not subjected to excessive force, swelling, abrasion, or motion during the time of healing.