



**Gemeinsamer  
Bundesausschuss**

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**Press release | Method evaluation**

## **Surgical treatment of lipedema: G-BA includes liposuction in the regular service catalog after positive benefit evaluation**

**Berlin, 17. July 2025** – Statutory insured persons who suffer from lipedema can in future also be treated surgically - with liposuction - regardless of the stage of the chronic disease under certain conditions. Until now, liposuction is only a health insurance benefit for stage III lipedema and as a temporary exception. Lipedema is a pathological multiplication of adipose tissue on the legs and possibly arms, which is associated with severe pain for those affected. The corresponding decisions were taken by the Joint Federal Committee (G-BA) at its meeting today. The scientific basis is the first results of a study initiated by the G-BA. They prove that surgical adipose tissue reduction has clear advantages over non-surgical treatment alone.

Dr. med. Bernhard van Treeck, impartial member of the G-BA and chairman of the subcommittee for the preparatory for the decision-m on method evaluation: "The G-BA was very aware of the suffering of those affected from the beginning. However, an earlier decision on regular and indefinite entitlement to benefits was not possible, since only new benefits in the outpatient sector may be included in the statutory health insurance, the medical benefit of which is proven. Damage must also be excluded for the protection of the patients. All those involved in the G-BA would have liked a better study situation at the beginning of the procedure, but that was not available. However, since the potential of a so-called treatment alternative was seen, the G-BA was able to initiate a trial study on benefits and risks. Now the results of this study show that liposuction has a benefit. Further

important findings, such as the need for repeat interventions, are still to be expected. The G-BA is in any case obliged to keep an eye on new scientific findings and to adapt guidelines if necessary. This is exactly what we will do at the latest when the LIPLEG study is completely completed.”

## **Liposuction for the treatment of lipedema**

Lipedema is a painful, disproportionate, symmetrical adipose tissue distribution disorder on the extremities, it occurs almost exclusively in women. The course of the chronic disease is very individual; some patients develop lipoedema to a lesser extent, which stabilizes. In other patients, the extent of lipedema progresses and the symptoms worsen. If lipoedema is accompanied by a certain degree of obesity, it must be treated as a priority.

Liposuction is a surgical procedure that reduces the pathologically altered subcutaneous fat tissue of lipoedema. It can help to reduce the pain and any movement restrictions. Before liposuction as a health insurance benefit, conservative therapy such as e.g. compression and movement therapy have been carried out continuously. If, however, there is no relief of the symptoms and the other requirements according to the quality assurance guideline for liposuction in lipedema are met, the attending physician can prescribe a liposuction treatment.

Further quality assurance requirements of the G-BA regarding the new benefit entitlement concern, for example, the qualification of the indication and the operating doctors, the surgical planning and the postoperative follow-up.

## **Further steps to the outpatient and inpatient benefit entitlement**

The G-BA now submits the decisions to the Federal Ministry of Health for legal examination. They come into force after non-agress and publication in the Federal Gazette. Before liposuction is also an outpatient health insurance benefit in stages I and II, the assessment committee of doctors and health insurance companies must determine the billing figures in the so-called Uniform Assessment Scale (EBM). The G-BA assumes that the EBM digits will be up to 1. January 2026 will be determined.

## Background: Method evaluation of liposuction in lipedema

The G-BA is commissioned by the legislator to decide what entitlement to persons with statutory health insurance to medical examination and treatment methods. As part of a structured assessment procedure, the G-BA checks whether they are necessary for sufficient, appropriate and economical care for the insured in outpatient and/or inpatient care. At the end of a method evaluation procedure, the G-BA decides whether and to what extent – i.e. for which exact indication and under which quality assurance requirements – a treatment method can be applied at the expense of the statutory health insurance (GKV). If the scientific data does not yet allow a certain decision, the method must be tested in a study if the potential of a necessary treatment alternative exists. This was the case with liposuction.

The procedure for the evaluation of liposuction in lipedema is based on a request for advice from the patient representation in the G-BA. Due to the problematic study situation, the G-BA had taken the decision to suspend the evaluation and to launch a study to improve the knowledge situation. The key points of this LIPLEG study are defined in a testing guideline.

### Resolutions on this press release

Quality Assurance Guideline for Liposuction in Lipedema: Amendment  
Directive Methods Hospital Treatment: Liposuction in Lipedema  
Directive Methods of Contract Medical Care: Liposuction for Lipedema

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