

## **Liposuction to be Payed For by Insurance Companies To Treat Fatty Tissue Hazards**

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Darmstadt (jur.) Should patients suffer from a painful fatty tissue dysfunction, obligatory legal insurance companies now have to take over the costs of a necessary hospitalization needed in order to perform extensive liposuction. On Wednesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2013, the federal social court authorized that it is no longer necessary that the state must give its consent for the liposuction treatment in order for the costs to be incurred. This verdict was announced at the court in Darmstadt, Hessen, Germany

Thereby a 29 year old woman was given justice. The woman suffers from so-called Lipedema, an accumulation of painful fatty tissue on arms, legs and buttocks. This illness, also known as riding pants syndrom, is not the outcome of overweight. The plaintiff had an especially pronounced case that indicated a liposuction necessary to be carried out in a hospital.

The obligatory legal insurance company however refused to pay the costs. Their argument; the standard therapeutic methods such as lymphatic drainage were not sufficiently being used. The social court also refused to pay. The federal court did not authorize a liposuction was the reasoning. Therefore a hospital treatment was not necessary.

The LSG (Landessozialgericht) expressed it differently however in their verdict from the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2013. The woman had bulging arms and the circumferences of her thighs were more than 80 centimeters. (100 centimeters are approximately one yard) With such a large amount of fat, hospitalization would be absolutely necessary. In an outpatient situation, only a maximum of two quarts of pure fat can be removed per session. In a hospital, at least three to four and more quarts can be removed at once. The reasoning was that the risk of several operations in succession could not be demanded of the plaintiff, so that an indication for hospitalization absolutely necessary.  
Verdict issued on the 24. April 2013

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