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Tummy Tuck - Abdominoplasty

Abdominoplasty, known as a 'tummy tuck', is a common reconstructive and cosmetic surgical procedure that tightens loose muscles in the abdominal wall and removes excess fat and folds of skin from the lower belly.

Potential Risks and Complications

Modern surgery is generally safe but does have the potential for risks and complications to occur.

Some possible complications and risks associated with a tummy tuck may include:

- Wound infection (treatment with antibiotics may be needed)
- Pain and discomfort around the incisions
- Haematoma (an accumulation of blood around the surgical site that may require drainage)
- Visible and prominent scars including keloid and hypertrophic scars. These are raised, red and thickened scars that may form over the healed incisions. They may be itchy, annoying and unsightly but are not a threat to health
- Numbness around operated sites. In most cases this is temporary and will improve over many months
- Areas of skin that do not heal and may require a skin graft
- Difficulty in bending forward due to the tightened skin. Other movements may also feel constrained
- Excess fluid accumulation under the skin (known as a seroma) around an operated site that may require one or more drainage procedures with a needle
- In the event of significant blood loss during surgery, it may become necessary to administer a blood transfusion.
- A blood clot in a leg or the chest (deep venous thrombosis) that will require further treatment. It is rare that a clot can move to the lungs and become life threatening
- Nausea (typically from the anaesthetics which usually settles down quickly)

Disclaimer: The above list is not exhaustive and other risks, complications, or outcomes may occur during or after your surgery. If you wish to discuss the potential risks and complications further, please do so at your patient consultation.