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Labiaplasty

Labiaplasty is a surgical procedure that reduces the size of the labia minora. The labia minora lay inside the labia majora and along either side of the vaginal opening.

Childbirth, massive weight loss, aging, or genetics can cause the labia minora to become enlarged, stretched, asymmetrical, darkened, or a combination of these characteristics. This can lead to physical discomfort during intercourse, exercise, or while wearing certain types of clothing, as well as self-consciousness regarding the appearance of the labia minora.



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Introduction

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Procedure

Labiaplasty typically lasts 1-2 hours. Your surgeon will determine whether to use local anesthesia or general anesthesia.

There are a variety of techniques used during labiaplasty, the most common being the edge resection (or trim procedure), and the wedge resection.

During an edge resection, your surgeon will make an incision along the outer edge of the labia minora and cut away the excess tissue. Next, the skin is closed with dissolvable sutures.

During a wedge resection, your surgeon will make incisions to remove a wedge-shaped piece of tissue. The skin will be closed with dissolvable sutures, maintaining the natural border of your labia minora.

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Risks

As with most surgical procedures, the risks associated with labiaplasty include infection, bleeding, and wound opening. Complications from labiaplasty also include permanent scarring and increased or decreased tissue sensitivity. In rare cases, too much labial tissue is removed, which can lead to scarring, chronic dryness, and pain.



Recovery and Results

Typically, labiaplasty is performed as an outpatient procedure and you can return home the day of surgery. Minor pain, swelling, and bruising are common, and will subside over time. Your sutures will dissolve in 2 to 3 weeks. Most patients can return to their daily activities in 3 to 10 days, while more strenuous physical activity and sexual intercourse should be avoided for at least 4 to 6 weeks. The final results of labiaplasty will be apparent after 3 to 6 months.

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