



## Fat's New Frontier

Still a favorite wrinkle filler, fat is now being used to plump the *poitrine*.

Photograph by CHARLES MASTERS

**I**n the waiting room of plastic surgeon Sydney Coleman's TriBeCa office there is a lithograph of a woman staring into a full-length mirror. Head cocked, hands on her waist, she appears to be taking stock of her assets—a little flab here, not enough of a curve there. Flesh-and-blood versions of this very same woman are coming to see the bespectacled doctor with increasing frequency. They seek the surgical equivalent of having your cake and eating it too: a two-for-one liposuction and breast augmentation procedure whereby fat is removed from the love handles, inner thighs or abdomen and injected into the breasts drop by drop, “like lines of caviar,” Coleman says. After all, who hasn’t fantasized about being able to choose where the

calories from that cheeseburger end up?

Coleman has become something of a cheerleader for the technique, which can be used for breast enhancement, reconstruction following a mastectomy and to soften the look of implants (lumpectomy patients who have had radiation are generally not ideal candidates for the procedure, because radiation creates an inhospitable environment for fat). Though he’s done only 50 such surgeries in the past 12 years, the 52-year-old doctor, who is affiliated with three Manhattan hospitals, is so thrilled with the procedure that he isn’t using implants at all anymore.

“It’s almost like the ‘greening’ of breast surgery,” says cosmetic surgery consultant Wendy Lewis. “The idea of being able to recycle your own tissue is very appealing on many levels.” Particularly attractive is the prospect of augmentation without the risks of leaking silicone or deflating saline implants. Another advantage, according to Coleman, is that it offers doctors more aesthetic flexibility. “You have control over what you’re doing, rather than putting a silicone bag into a confined space,” he says.

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