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## THE HISTORY OF THE BANDAGE DRESS

Back in the early 80s, bodycon or bandage dresses were just as popular as they are today. A fashion concept originally instituted by designer Herve Leger, these short, fitted dresses were designed to imitate the effect of an underclothing garment to push up and hold in the areas that need it most. As opposed to one complete piece of fabric, superthick strips of fabric, which resembled a bandage, were first used to construct the dresses. Modern and feminine, the bandage dress can do wonders for the body, making it look thinner, smaller or rounder in all the right places.

Noninvasive fat melters are big business since they eradicate extra fat cells. Rather new to the body-contouring scene, these devices first gained popularity in Europe and most recently were brought to U.S. shores.

HOW THEY HELP Devices, like Ulthera (relies on focused ultrasound energy); radio-frequency treatments (like Thermage, Accent Your Body and Exilis); and CoolSculpting (freezes the fat), use different tactics to target fat. "We're doing a lot of CoolSculpting to reat the muffin top and stomach bulges," says Reno, NV, plastic urgeon Tiffany McCormack, MD. "Twenty to 30 percent of the fat ells—about a ¼-inch loss—can be shrunk in one session. But downtime-free treatments don't work on laxity; only bulges

FOUR MONTHS TO SEE FULL RESULTS

Kirkland, WA, plastic surgeon Sarah McMillan, MD, says the best way to permanently get rid of fatty deposits is with liposuction. "It's a tried-and-true way to spot-treat problem areas and redefine a waistline that may have been lost with age or from having kids." If fullness throughout the abdomen is the case, a tummy tuck, or variation of it, may be in order.

HOW IT HELPS Usually the result of pregnancy (age, weight loss and even genetics can cause loose skin), when the skin and muscles are drastically stretched out they can't retract well, causing the lower belly to look "poochy." New York plastic surgeon Alan Matarasso, MD, says that the elasticity of the skin can get "shot and just hang. Some that had a C-section have a ledge on the lower part of the stomach that can be seen in tight clothing." Lipo works on select patients but to fix laxity, a tummy tuck needs to be done. "For women with a C-section scar and a bit of skin that folds over it, a scar revision (basically a mini-tummy tuck) can eliminate the excess," says Dr. McMillan,

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