# Mother warns against cosmetic procedures after severe infection



Julia Lanni, a 59-year-old mother from Hertfordshire, is currently grappling with the aftermath of a severe infection stemming from a weight-loss treatment she underwent on August 22, 2023. In an attempt to shed excess weight gained following the birth of her son in 2000, Lanni sought a solution through a cosmetic procedure involving 16 injections of Aqualyx, a fat-dissolving solution, for which she paid £120. Unfortunately, just a week later, she found herself rushing to A&E at Lister Hospital in Stevenage due to a painful abscess that developed on her abdomen.

The abscess, described as being the size of a fist, led to emergency surgery. Upon waking, Lanni discovered that she had a significant wound in her stomach, measuring 7cm deep and 10cm across. She recounted her experience, stating, "This treatment was certainly life changing, but not in the way I wanted. My confidence is even lower than it was before. My weight was the same after the treatment and I've been left with a scar."

Lanni's struggle with weight has been compounded by health issues; she gained 3 stone and 7 pounds after childbirth and faced challenges in losing weight due to steroid medication for congenital adrenal hyperplasia. Prior to the injections, she had explored numerous diets including Weight Watchers and Atkins, but none achieved the desired results. After researching Aqualyx for over a month and perceiving the salon as professional and clean—backed by 5-star reviews—she decided to proceed with the treatment.

Following her injections, Lanni began to experience intense pain and swelling just a few days later. By August 29, the pain had escalated to an unbearable level, prompting her to visit her GP, who prescribed antibiotics and advised her to head to A&E. Lanni described the emergency situation, noting, "After a week it was so painful nobody could touch it and I could hardly move: it was unbearable."

After her surgery on August 30 at 3 AM, Lanni had to endure additional medical care for her ongoing wound, which required packing and dressing changes for five weeks. The pain during this period was profound, likening it to "hundreds of bee stings." The overall ordeal not only affected her health but also her finances, as she was unable to work for five weeks, resulting in a financial loss estimated at £2,500. Compounding her distress, Lanni learned that she could not pursue compensation due to signing a consent form before the procedure, which listed abscesses as a possible side effect.

In light of her experience, Lanni expressed the importance of being cautious with cosmetic procedures, stating, "I’d advise people to be aware that this treatment can have severe consequences - think very carefully before having it." She emphasised the necessity of using medically qualified practitioners for such treatments, especially following her own distressing experience.

The manufacturers of Aqualyx released a statement expressing regret over Lanni's situation. They clarified that Aqualyx should only be administered by trained, qualified healthcare professionals within clinical settings, citing a well-established safety record for the product when used correctly. They highlighted the risks posed by non-medical personnel carrying out aesthetic procedures, which have become increasingly common in the UK.

Kasim Usmani, a qualified NHS GP who trains healthcare professionals in aesthetic practice, added that all medical treatments carry inherent risks, particularly highlighting that safe procedures are best carried out by trained professionals who have a comprehensive understanding of the human anatomy involved.

Lanni continues to navigate the challenges posed by her scar and lingering health concerns while advocating for greater awareness and rigour in choosing cosmetic treatment options.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://harleyclinic.com/blog/fat-dissolving-injections-side-effects/> - This URL explains how Aqualyx works and its common side effects, including swelling, bruising, and tenderness, which aligns with Lanni's experience of intense pain and swelling after the procedure. It highlights the risks associated with improper administration by untrained personnel.
* <https://smilestories.co/are-fat-dissolving-treatments-safe/> - This article discusses the safety and effectiveness of fat-dissolving treatments like Aqualyx, emphasizing the importance of using qualified practitioners and clinical settings to minimize risks. It supports the statement about the need for trained professionals.
* <https://www.infiniskin.com/blog/fat-dissolving-injections-hidden-risks/> - This URL discusses the potential risks of fat-dissolving injections, including serious complications such as infections and permanent scars, especially when administered by unqualified individuals. This echoes Lanni's severe infection and the risks highlighted by Aqualyx manufacturers.
* <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10311201/> - Although not directly related to Aqualyx, this article discusses the importance of proper training and methodology in medical fields, which indirectly supports the necessity of qualified professionals in administering treatments like Aqualyx.
* <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/COLJI-Crim%202017%20-%20Final.pdf> - This document doesn't directly relate to Aqualyx or fat-dissolving treatments but represents the broader context of legal considerations and informed consent. It underscores the importance of understanding potential risks and signing consent forms, which Lanni had done.
* <https://www.fda.gov/safety/medwatch-fda-safety-information-and-adverse-event-reporting-program> - This URL is from the FDA's MedWatch program, which highlights the importance of reporting adverse reactions from medical treatments. It's relevant to Lanni's situation by emphasizing the need for monitoring and reporting potential side effects in cosmetic procedures.
* <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/health/my-120-weight-loss-jabs-35003822> - Please view link - unable to able to access data