

POLITICO

The danger in hospital at home

Erin Schumaker, Daniel Payne and Ruth Reader | February 1, 2024



More effective weight-loss drugs could have pros and cons for plastic surgeons. | M. Spencer Green/AP

WORKFORCE

New weight-loss drugs could mean boom times for plastic surgeons — but it could spell trouble for them in the long term.

How's that? Patients taking semaglutide drugs, such as Ozempic and Wegovy, are losing weight fast — which could lead to more people seeking excess skin removal and facial revolumization, which involves moving fat to different parts of the face, **Dr. Steven Williams**, president of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, told Daniel.

“I think most plastic surgeons are seeing that as like, ‘Wow, it’s gonna be great. We’re gonna really be able to help people get the rest of the way there,’” he said.

Even so: If the drugs reduce obesity and improve health outcomes tied to the disease, that could reduce demand for internal medicine doctors, orthopedic surgeons, OB-GYNs and other physicians who treat the downstream health effects of obesity.

That could lead more doctors to choose plastic surgery as their specialty.

“The aesthetic [surgery] space is kind of that thing people look at as a way to potentially generate revenue,” Williams said.

Fallout: Plastic surgery is a relatively small specialty, Williams said, so an influx of new doctors could have a big impact on the bottom line.

“In some ways, it may mark the end of plastic surgeons, but not the end of aesthetic surgery,” he said.

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/future-pulse/2024/02/01/the-danger-in-hospital-at-home-00138996>