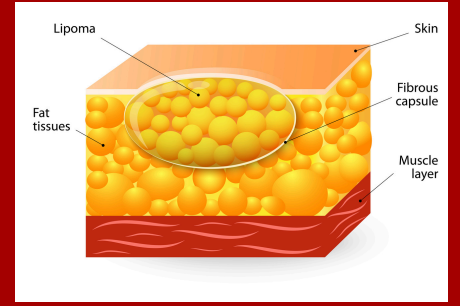




**ROCHESTER
GENERAL
SURGERY**



What is a mass or lump?

The most common masses beneath the skin are either lipomas or cysts. A lipoma is a fatty mass contained within subcutaneous fat, but can involve the muscle. Cysts are associated with the skin and are usually filled with oil or debris. Both are non-cancerous and can develop very large depending on the location.

Do they cause symptoms?

They can. If a lipoma is pressing on a muscle or nerve, or near a joint it may be symptomatic. If a cyst becomes infected it may rapidly grow and be painful, requiring incision and drainage prior to excision.

How is the surgery performed?

Surgery can be done in an office setting depending on the size and location of the mass. For ones that are larger or involve sensitive areas, your surgeon may suggest removal in the operating room.

Can there be complications?

Surgery for mass removal is a very safe surgery with low complication rate. However, no surgery is without risk. Patient's may develop bleeding, infection, hematoma, seroma, wound complications, dehiscence, or mass recurrence.

What is recovery?

Depending on location and size, activity limitations may only be a few days.