



What is a Lipoma? A lipoma is a common tumor of fatty tissue that appears as a soft, mobile mass with no overlying skin changes. It is common on the trunk, but can occur on the head or extremities as well. They can occur as single or multiple lesions. Most of the time, they are asymptomatic, although occasionally they can be painful.

Are they harmful? No. Lipomas are benign growths, and only very rarely become malignant. Let your doctor know if your growth is rapidly growing.

What is the cause? It is not known why people develop lipomas, although the propensity for multiple lipomas may be inherited.

Do they need to be removed? No. Lipomas are benign and do not need to be removed. If they become objectionable large to interfere with function or are very symptomatic, they may be removed with local surgical excision. Small, asymptomatic lipomas may be electively removed at the Cosmetic Services Center (408) 851-8200 for a fee.