

## FAT FIXER

Doctors may soon be able to put fat in its place once and for all. According to a study published in *Nature Medicine*, neuropeptide Y (NPY) works as a superfertilizer for fat cells in mice, boosting blood vessel production and stimulating surrounding cell growth. Conversely, injections of an NPY receptor blocker performed a sort of liquid lipo, inducing significant weight loss. "The first several shots instantly dissolved some fat in the area," says study coauthor Stephen B. Baker, MD, an associate professor of plastic surgery at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC. "After two weeks of daily treatments, there was a 50 percent decrease all over." While FDA approval for fat-melting shots may take up to five years, the original peptide could be mixed into conventional fat injections to create a longer-lasting filler in as little as four years.