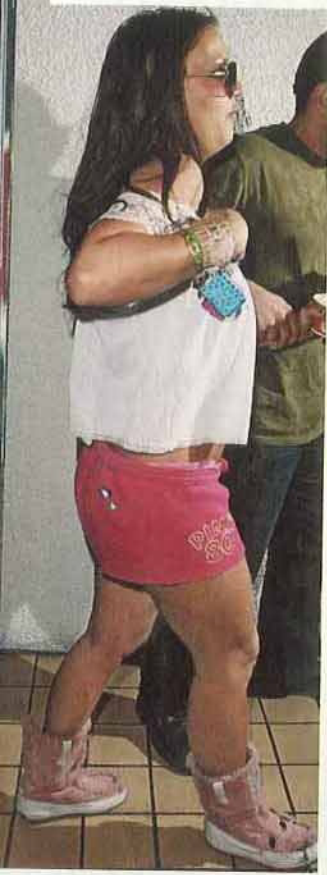
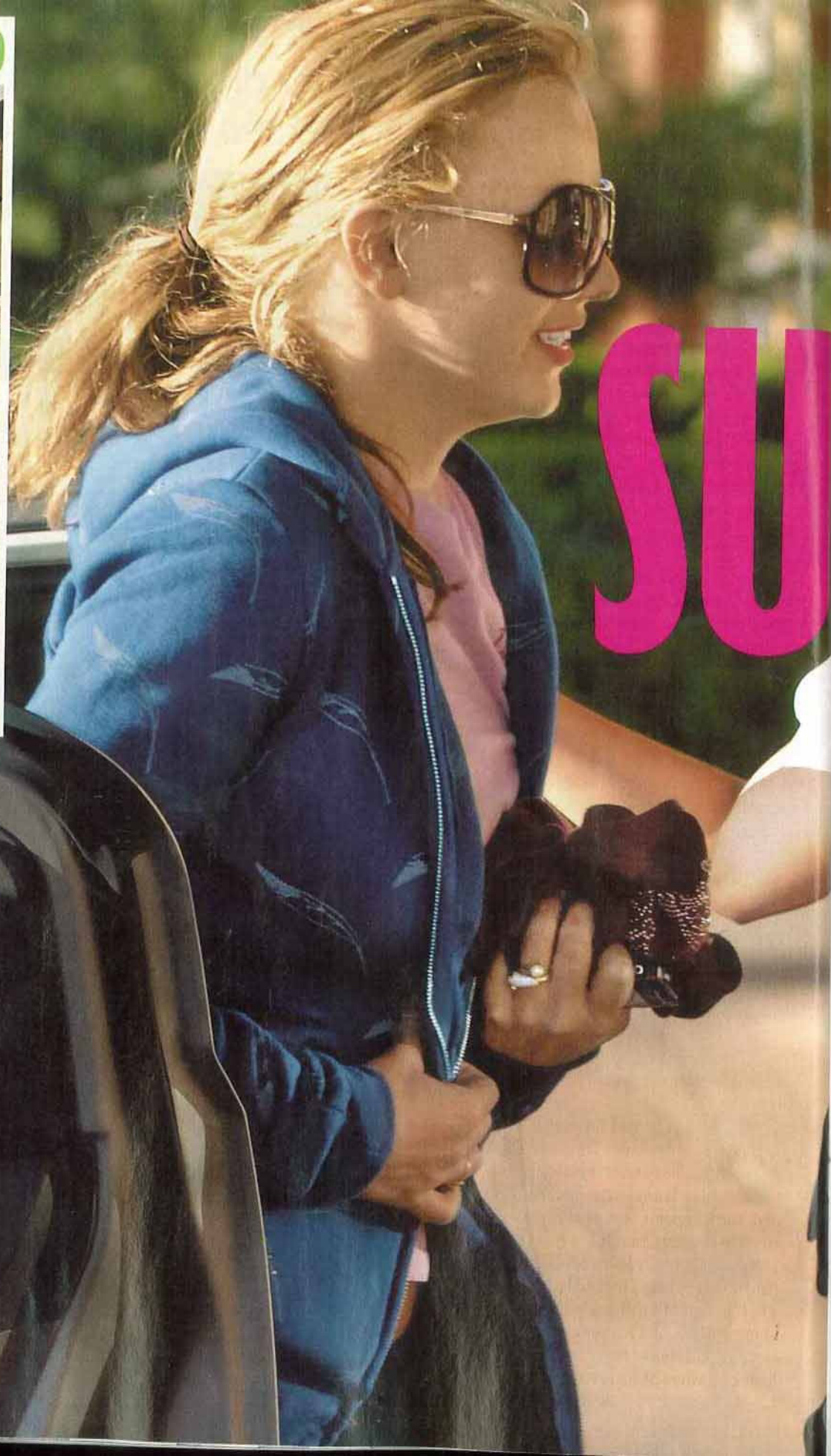


BRIT: PRE-LIPO



Ridicule over her flabby figure — as seen during an Oct. 21 outing in L.A., above — drove Britney to undergo SmartLipo treatment at a Nevada clinic on Nov. 10, says a source. Afterwards, Britney held her tummy (right) as she returned to her hotel.



SURGERY

Britney's SECRET PLASTIC

Despondent over her expanding frame, the “Gimme More” pop tart treks to a Nevada clinic and tells a lipo doctor, “Gimme less!”

WITH the memory of her disastrous, bloated appearance on the MTV Video Music Awards still painfully fresh in her mind, Britney Spears made a dramatic four-hour drive through the night on Nov. 9 to reach a Henderson, Nev., clinic for hush-hush surgery to finally get rid of that fat around her stomach!

ZAP THE FAT

“Brit’s VMA performance was supposed to be her big comeback, but it was a huge letdown for her — and she’s wanted a body makeover ever since,” says a friend. So Britney, 25, turned to John Minoli, M.D., of the Minoli Plastic Surgery Clinic & Spa. Dr. Minoli specializes in SmartLipo surgery — a popular new liposuction system that uses a laser to break down fat.

“Britney had SmartLipo to remove the excess fat and cellulite on her stomach and upper thighs,” says the friend. “Dr. Minoli treated Britney last April, and she was so happy with the results that she

requested his services again. She really trusts him.”

BACK-DOOR BRIT

After checking into the nearby Ritz-Carlton hotel early on Nov. 10, Britney — accompanied by her close friend, Alli Sims, and driven by another pal — arrived at Dr. Minoli’s clinic at 10:30 a.m. She was



WHERE SHE GOT THE TREATMENT

With her confidante Alli Sims by her side (above left), Britney tries to cover up as she’s driven away from the Henderson, Nev., offices of the Minoli Plastic Surgery Clinic & Spa, where John Minoli, M.D. gave her SmartLipo.

ushered into the building through the back door and then prepped for the four-hour procedure. The technique, which its inventors claim destroys fat cells permanently with no new fat cells reappearing, uses an incision so small that no stitches are necessary afterwards.

“Britney had local anesthesia to numb the areas to be worked on,” says the friend. “She was awake and in a good mood the entire time. It was a long procedure, but it was painless — and amazingly, Britney didn’t get fidgety or nervous.”

The procedure cost Britney about \$12,000, says the friend. “But she said it was a bargain — and that she should have had it done sooner!” Britney and her pals later had a bite to eat at their hotel before heading back to L.A.

WAS IT A RISK?

In the wake of the sudden death of rap star Kanye West’s 58-year-old mother, Donda, after reportedly having cosmetic surgery the same day, was Britney also putting herself in harm’s way — especially given her less-than-healthy lifestyle? Constantino Mendieta, M.D., a Miami-based plastic surgeon (who has not treated Spears) tells *Star*: “The risk is extremely minimal, but any type of liposuction can be dangerous in terms of organ injury.”

That may be, but another source claims Spears has more in store when it comes to future plastic surgery. “Britney wants her perky pre-baby boobs back,” says the source. “Once she’s done with everything, she says she’ll be back on top!”

— RICK EGUSQUIZA ★

