

Facial Plastic Surgery

The following information package is provided to familiarize you with the more frequently performed facial plastic operations e.g., rhinoplasty (nose job), facelift, liposuctions, chemical peel, chin implant and otoplasty (for correction of lop ears). The intention of these operations is to improve facial appearance as much as possible. It is unable to produce a transforming miracle. Several factors involved in producing the final results are beyond the control of the surgeon. As such it is impossible to guarantee results. Factors such as the quality of the skin, healing abilities, presence of fat pockets, the number and types of wrinkles, underlying bone structures and genetic and hormonal influence all determine the final result of the surgery. The facial plastic surgery is unable to turn back the clock on the aging process. The following information is provided to answer some very commonly asked questions regarding the surgery of the face. Specific questions relating to your surgery will be discussed during your consultation. Please feel free to call 984-5160 if you have unanswered questions following your consultations.

1. Is facial surgery considered to be major surgery?

Rarely facial plastic can produce serious complications and is therefore subjected to some degree of unpredictability. It is a major operation considering the impact of surgery.

2. Is the hospital stay necessary?

Admission to the hospital may be required if your surgery lasts over four hours, or if there are any medical circumstances which require close monitoring postoperatively. If however, plans are made for your discharge the same day of surgery it is generally advised for you to find accommodations within the city for two to three days following surgery.

3. What type of anesthesia is used during the operation?

The type of anesthesia chosen is based upon the combination of patient preference and their medical condition. The procedure can be done under local anesthesia with adequate sedation. However, many patients prefer general anesthesia. If you elect to use general anesthesia for your operation you will have an opportunity to discuss the relevant aspects of anesthesia with the expert anesthesiologists who will provide that service.

4. How long does the surgery last?

The actual time for surgery varies depending upon the amount of surgery required for each patient. Generally speaking the surgery lasts as long as it takes to provide you the very best results. A face lift usually lasts approximately three hours and eyelid surgery approximately an hour and a half.

5. What will be my postoperative condition?

Postoperatively you can expect to have bandages on the face and ice compresses on your eyelids to minimize bruising and swelling. During this period you are advised to limit conversations, telephone calls and visitors. Since the sutures are removed a few days after surgery you may decide to stay in the Jackson area for up to a week following surgery. However, you are able to travel out of the city after the third day.

6. When can makeup be applied?

Generally speaking makeup can be applied after removal of the sutures. It is important to carefully remove all the makeup at the end of the day as will be explained to you during your postoperative period. No degree of stretch or pressure against the suture lines can be placed for up to three weeks.

7. What is my appearance in the postoperative period?

You will have a thoroughly battered and bruised appearance in the immediate postoperative period. This phase may last for two to three weeks. Generally this is followed by a period where your skin appears tight and "strange". A public appearance is generally possible at the three week period, however, this is variable. Emotionally a period of some depression is possible postoperatively. This is to be expected and should not be alarming. Once the final appearance has settled you will notice the surgical improvements.

8. How do I take care of my hair and is my hair shaved in preparation for surgery?

The hair is not shaved for surgery however a small area may be trimmed inside the hairline above the ears. You may comb your hair with a large-tooth comb after washing it with warm water. Your first shampoo may not be possible until after the sutures are removed. A hair dryer may only be used on the cold or comfort zone reading. It should never be used in the hot zone since you may burn your skin or increase your chances of wound problems.

9. Are there external scars?

Generally the incisions will leave a faint scar which is camouflaged in appropriate areas in your skin. You should remember that the scar will be a permanent one and visible if carefully searched for. In some patients widening of the scar can occur depending on the type of skin. Fortunately this is very uncommon. For nose surgery, incisions are primarily inside the nose. Occasionally small external incisions are required in the nostrils or in the columella. If these incisions are planned for your surgery they will be explained.

10. How long does the surgical result last?

The surgery for face and neck lift intended for improvements in the "jowling phenomena" may require resurgery in 5 to 8 years. Some patients age more rapidly than others. The operation to improve bagging of the eyelids generally lasts somewhat longer. In some patients where there are signs of excessive skin of neck, face, and jaw, exceedingly aged skin and changes of solar damage the results may not last as long.

11. Can complications occur from surgery?

Complications can certainly occur with any surgery including facial plastic surgery. These will be discussed in depth with you. Fortunately major complications such as loss of skin,

paralysis of branches of facial nerve, hematomas (blood collection under the skin), serious wound infections, deformities or irregularities of skin or nose, and exposure of the eye (ectropion) are uncommon. However specific to your surgery the complications will be discussed at length.