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Where's The "Plastic" In Plastic Surgery?

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– by Mike Jones

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Don't be looking for the Dupont Company sales rep the next time you visit a Plastic Surgeon's office because, despite popular belief, there's no "Plastic" in Plastic Surgery. The name is taken from the Greek word "plastikos" which means to "mold or shape."

Initially plastic surgery procedures were limited to facial and body reconstruction caused by accidents, trauma, illness or birth defects. As people began to see the purely cosmetic possibilities, many surgeons expanded their services to include facelifts, rhinoplasty (nose jobs), breast augmentation and liposuction.

It's important to know the difference between plastic surgery and cosmetic surgery, especially if you're planning on having your insurance company foot the bill for your procedure.

Where's The "Plastic" In Plastic Surgery?

Cosmetic surgery is performed solely to improve a person's outward physical appearance and self-esteem by correcting naturally occurring conditions that the patient is unhappy with. Cosmetic surgery may be performed by either a Plastic Surgeon or a Cosmetic Surgeon. Cosmetic surgery is generally not covered by health insurance.

Reconstructive plastic surgery is performed to correct or reduce the effects of congenital defects, accidental trauma injury, infections, tumors, and other health-related conditions. It's primary purpose is rarely to simply improve appearance except for extreme cases involving major facial

or bodily damage resulting from automobile accidents, etc. Plastic Surgery may only be performed by a Plastic Surgeon.

In most cases insurance does pay for plastic surgery although there are some cases where your claim may be reduced or denied completely. That's why it is always important to coordinate the planned procedure with your health insurance provider BEFORE you get the procedure.

Often times the difference between whether or not your insurance company will cover the bill is the REASON for the procedure. If, for example, you are having your nose reshaped because you're unhappy with your profile -- no deal. You're on your own. However, get that same nose job because your doctor has diagnosed a chronic breathing problem that results in the potentially dangerous condition known as "Sleep Apnea" and you could end up with a new nose courtesy of your health insurance provider!

If you are planning to visit a Plastic Surgeon, keep the following items in mind:

Your plastic surgeon should be "Board Certified" by the American Board of Plastic Surgery;

If your doctor will be using anesthesia then make sure that only a licensed Anesthesiologist administers the medicine and make sure that the facility where the procedure is being performed is accredited by at least one of the following organizations:

American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery

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Facilities(AAAASF)

Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC)

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare
Organizations (JCAHO)

Although making sure that all of these certifications are present is no guarantee of a trouble-free experience, NOT having these certifications means that both the doctor performing plastic surgery, as well as the people who run the facility, have a serious lack of regard for your health and well being! You should NEVER use an uncertified plastic surgeon or facility. The risk is simply not worth it.

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There are 11 questions you should ask when contemplating cosmetic surgery. View them and related information on Mike Jones' health body & beauty site. Click here:
target="_blank"><http://www.bodyfaq.com/cosmetic-surgery.html>

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Plastic Surgery - More And More Men Are Opting For This

By John Francis Amberden

Mention plastic surgery and the first things to come to mind are breast implants and Botox. As today's reality shows are informing us though, plastic surgery is no longer strictly the domain on women desperately seeking the fountain of youth. More and more men are going under the knife as well. Consider that 9.1% of all plastic surgeries in the United States in 1998 comprised of men. In 2005, that percentage went up to 20. That's right. Of the over 10 million plastic surgery procedures done in that year, approximately 2 million were done on men.

Why this trend in male plastic surgery in spite of how much plastic surgery costs? All you need to do these days is turn on the television and you are bombarded by sexy, toned bodies and weight loss ads. Go to any major restaurant, order something swimming in cheese, and see how many dirty looks you'll get when the waiter brings your plate. Thin is in and no one wants to look over thirty anymore. Gone are the days of the distinguished older gentlemen, and the women who love them.

Where's The "Plastic" In Plastic Surgery?

Most men will readily admit that they have undergone plastic surgery to attract the opposite sex. Older men tend to want younger women and therefore feel the need to compete with their younger counterparts. Plastic surgery helps to level the playing field, as it were. In addition, due to the health kick that has taken over in the past few years, men are living longer and working longer. Plastic surgery allows them to keep looking strong and vitalized in the workplace.

The most common plastic surgery procedures among men are liposuction, wrinkle removal and, of course, hair transplants. The popularity of these procedures has actually served to bring down plastic surgery costs. This is because an increasing number of doctors are choosing to specialize in the field, so there is a wider fold to choose from. That doesn't mean that plastic surgery costs next to nothing just yet. The more detailed and potentially dangerous the surgery, the higher the cost.

Liposuction, for example, can cost anywhere from \$3000 to \$6000. Facelifts can cost as much as \$15000. It is clear that plastic surgery costs are not low, but they are by no means extravagantly expensive. In today's youth oriented society, many men no longer shy away from discussing plastic surgery and openly admit to having procedures done. Perhaps this is one area where the sexes are actually heading towards equality.

John Francis Amberden is a regular article contributor on many topics. If you have found this article helpful, visit his resource sites,

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