

### Rhinoplasty

Deformities of the external nose, such as, a hump on the top of the nose, a nose that is too long or too wide, or a nose that is deformed through injury or because of birth defects; obstructions in the nose that cause breathing or sinus problems and headaches are external and internal conditions of the nose that can be corrected by plastic surgery.

Rhinoplasty is the name of the operation that corrects deformities of the external nose. In a Rhinoplasty, incisions are placed just inside the rim of the nostrils. Occasionally, a very short incision across the skin between the nostrils is required. The soft tissues of the nose are then carefully separated from the underlying cartilage and bone. The offending structures are removed and the remaining cartilage and bones are reshaped.

Rhinoplasty can be performed in conjunction with reconstructive septal surgery to relieve obstructions inside the nose. When this is done, the operation is called a septorhinoplasty. In a septorhinoplasty, the obstruction is removed through internal incisions and the interior of the nose is restructured. A small splint is usually placed on the external nose for a few days and a light internal dressing may be applied.

These procedures usually take between 1 to 2 hours depending on the amount of work that must be done.

#### DECIDING ON AN OPERATION

Anyone interested in cosmetic or functional surgery of the nose should consult a competent facial plastic surgeon. During the initial visit, the surgeon makes a thorough evaluation the external and internal shape of an individual's nose to determine whether surgery is indicated. He will then discuss any questions or concerns related to the surgery.



Pre and Post Operative Photographs

In addition to the skill of the surgeon, the patient's realistic expectations about the results of the surgery and his/her general emotional state are important considerations. Mental attitude is as important as the ability to heal in evaluating candidates for facial plastic surgery.

Once the surgery is agreed upon, preoperative photographs are taken to help the surgeon plan the operation. These photographs usually are compared with similar ones taken sometime after the surgery and serve as a permanent before-and-after record of the results.

#### WHERE SURGERY IS PERFORMED

The operation is usually performed in a hospital. It can be performed safely on an outpatient basis, but the physician may recommend a short stay in the hospital.

#### Keeping the patient comfortable

On the day of the surgery, preoperative medications to relive tension and local anesthetics to numb the nose during the surgery commonly are administered. General anesthesia is often administered for this surgery.

#### THE IMMEDIATE AFTER-EFFECTS

After the operation, some swelling and bruising of the nose and eyelids can be expected. The swelling usually subsides within the first few days, and the bruising subsides within a couple of weeks. There may be mild discomfort for a short time after the surgery, but this usually is controlled easily with medication. Significant pain is quite rare.

#### THE RESULTS TO EXPECT

Significant improvement may be noticed as soon as the splint is removed from the nose. Several weeks to several months must pass, though, before the

final result can be seen. Just how much improvement will occur depends on the individual's physical characteristics and the extent of the surgery.

#### THE RISKS

The risks are minimal. There are inherent risks in any surgical undertaking, however, and these should be discussed thoroughly with your surgeon. Many thousands of nasal operations are performed successfully each year.

#### COSTS

Fees for cosmetic surgery and operative facilities vary widely and depend on the extent and the complexity of the surgery. Your surgeon and his staff will discuss costs before the operation. Fees for cosmetic surgery, generally, are expected to be paid in advance because this type of surgery usually is not covered by insurance. If the purpose of the cosmetic surgery is to correct functional impairment, an insurance company may allow partial payment. The best way to find out if a claim will be considered, is to consult your insurance company prior to the operation. Many times, this consultation can be facilitated by our office staff.

Pre and Post Operative Photographs



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