

Choosing the Best Plastic Surgeon for You Checklist

Please use the following checklist in your search for the right plastic surgeon for your cosmetic surgery:

Surgeons

Dr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Questions

1. Is the surgeon a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgery?

This society requires that a surgeon be board certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery, and have been in practice at least two years. Verify by either calling 1-888-4-PLASTIC (1-888-475-2784) or look them up on the web at www.plasticsurgery.org.

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2. Is the surgeon board certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery?

Note that any other word in place of PLASTIC is not the same and usually indicates significantly less training, i.e. Cosmetic, Aesthetic, Facial Cosmetic, etc. Verify by either calling 1-888-4-PLASTIC (1-888-475-2784) or looking them up on the web at www.plasticsurgery.org.

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3. Is the surgeon authorized to perform the procedure in a hospital in town?

All hospitals verify training and education and they only allow surgeons who are adequately trained for specific procedures to perform them in their hospital. They also have committees in place that monitor potential problems to help insure patient protection.

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4. Do you feel comfortable with the surgeon?

Feeling uncomfortable with the surgeon can actually affect the outcome because you may be more stressed and you may be hesitant to ask questions that are important in how the procedure is done and its outcome.

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5. Do you feel comfortable with the staff?

This is important because often you spend as much time with the staff as the surgeon.

Surgeons

Questions - continued

Dr.

6. Is the surgeon reachable if you have questions or problems?

Your surgeon or the nurse should be reachable 24 hours a day for all questions. It's better to ask a seemingly simple question than to ignore a potential problem.

7. Can you talk to previous patients who have had this procedure?

If you are given the option to speak with a patient who had the procedure that you are considering, it is normal for this to take up to a couple of weeks to happen. Due to patient confidentiality, the patient's name cannot be given to you, and it can take a while to contact the patient and get them to call you.

8. Do you like the before and after pictures from other patients?

A surgeon's style is often evident in the before and after pictures.

9. Will the procedure be performed in a certified facility?

Your health should be the primary concern and certain procedures need to be done in a sterile surgical facility. Whenever anesthesia is used, you will want to be adequately monitored. Going to a certified facility helps guarantee that you are in a safe environment.

10. What is the surgeon's policy for revisions?

While we always hope for an uneventful recovery, once in a while a minor procedure enhancement is required in order to get the best result. To protect yourself, find out how the surgeon charges for touch ups.

11. How many procedures has the surgeon performed?

If you are the first patient that a surgeon is doing a specific procedure on, you have the right to know. Going to a surgeon who performs your procedure on a regular basis will increase your chances of getting a good result.

12. Other:

13. Other: