

Face: A look at the trends in the field of plastic surgery

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non-surgical procedures combined in the United States last year with over 2 million people, an increase of 37 percent from 2002.

The costs for surgical procedures such as facelifts, "mini-facelifts, rhinoplasty, and eyelid are going to set you back a bit more than Botox. Those procedures can range anywhere from \$2,800 to \$5,000, depending on the surgical procedure.

Men get facelifts too

"For facelifts or eyelid surgery, the average age of our patients is 48 to 68," said Cave. "The majority of our patients are female, but we're seeing more and more men. They just don't talk about it as openly as women do."

As one 48-year-old female patient said, "If I added up all the creams, clothing, and stuff I've bought trying to make myself feel better and look younger, it would exceed what I spent on my surgery!"

Funcik strongly believes in doing plastic surgery for the right reasons. "Plastic surgery is just like any other surgery, and shouldn't be taken lightly. It's best when a person's life is in balance and they're doing it for the right reasons," he said.

"I've turned down many patients. If they're in the middle of a traumatic point in their lives such as the death of a spouse or a recent divorce, I don't think they're good candidates for plastic surgery at that point in their lives. If they have unrealistic expectations or they're looking for plastic surgery to replace something that's missing inside and they've already had other surgical procedures before they come to me, I know one more (surgical procedure) is not going to give them what they need."

When asked about complications and risks, Funcik said, "If you combine all of the facelifts, eyelid lifts, chin implants, rhinoplasty and other surgeries I've done, none of my patients have ever had a serious complication."

He went on to say that in the past 10 years he's had no serious complications or hospitalizations for his patients. One patient had a minor infection that was treated with oral antibiotics.

As with any surgery, your medical history must be taken into consideration to better determine an individual's risk factors for plastic surgery. For any surgery, these issues are best discussed with your surgeon of choice.

"The myth that a facelift has to be redone comes from the days when facelifts resulted in improper techniques that gave one the appearance of a tight, mask-like face resulting in an unnatural look," Funcik said. "The reality is that if you have a facelift when you're 48, you're going to look better than your twin sister when you're 90. You don't have to have it (facelift) done again in five or ten years, as long as a patient doesn't add to the aging process by living an unhealthy lifestyle such as

years of alcohol abuse or smoking."

Smoking inhibits healing

According to Funcik, smoking is a risk factor. Not only because of the obvious health reasons, but because it can slow the healing process.

"I strongly recommend to my patients who are smokers that they quit two weeks before their surgery. A smoker has about a 20% increase of slow healing if they do not quit before surgery. If they quit two weeks prior, that risk is cut in half. In addition, you'll more than likely have more swelling than someone who doesn't smoke," Funcik stated.

"I've had dozens of patients who quit two weeks before their surgery and decided to remain a nonsmoker after they had the procedure," Funcik said. "They think, hey I've done this for two weeks, I can quit, and it kickstarts a better lifestyle for them."

The recovery time for these surgical procedures will vary depending on the person. Funcik recommends to most of his

patients that if he or she is considering a facelift for an important event such as a wedding or class reunion, they schedule it 4-6 weeks prior to the event.

"Human nature is that we want it now," Dr. Funcik said. "But cosmetic surgery, like any surgery takes time to heal and that recovery time varies with each individual."

There is a period of discomfort, some bruising or swelling, as well as patients adjusting to the change in their appearance.

"These are all normal occurrences after surgery," Funcik said, "We don't just do surgical procedures here, we do a lot of hand-holding and support for our patients. My job is not only to help them look better, but to provide emotional reassurance for them as well."

Funcik performs surgery in his Center's private operating facility in the Medical Arts Building in Mount Pleasant. Patients should call the Center to discuss options for their individual needs.

For those who don't want to

go the Botox route or can't quite take the surgery plunge, there is another option that is gaining popularity. Micropigmentation or permanent makeup offer patients yet another alternative to a more youthful appearance. A non-surgical procedure where sterile pigment (color) is injected into the lashline, brows, lips, or as a means to camouflage scars takes one to two hours, depending on the size of the area.

Movie star treatment

"Movie stars were using it (micropigmentation) in the 50's and 60's," said Barbara Busse of Dermagraphic Solutions, a Board Certified Cosmetic Specialist, "It's been in South Carolina for about 10 years."

Busse, a registered nurse for over 20 years has been practicing micropigmentation since 2002 after receiving advanced training for the procedure. Busse advises that patients find a competent medical professional who is trained and maintains high

standards through continuing education through the Society of Permanent Cosmetic Professionals and the American Academy of Micropigmentation if considering the procedure.

"Micropigmentation is a blend of artistic skill and scientific knowledge. You want to request more information about a technician's background and education and view pictures of clients they've done the procedure on. You want their style to be in line with what you want," Busse said.

For fading features, micropigmentation offers both men and women a way to restore some of that "youthful glow."

In addition, it can be as a timesaving measure for women who don't want to

apply makeup every day. The cost can range anywhere from \$500 to \$1,000.

Coastal Facial Plastic Surgery Center with its competent professionals, spa-like setting, soft music, and pastel walls just may be what you're looking for if you're considering joining the millions of people who have decided to turn back the hands of time.

Or you may just want to stick with what nature gave you. The choice, as always, is yours.

For more information about the procedures in this article, call 843-884-3277 or visit www.greatface.com or www.dermagraphicsolutions.net.

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