

# How to Choose Your Plastic Surgeon

Choosing an experienced and talented plastic surgeon with whom you share a good rapport is the key to ensuring satisfaction with your cosmetic surgery. The ability to create beautiful results and the understanding to share your vision are important qualities to look for in a prospective surgeon. It is also equally important to make sure that your plastic surgeon has the credentials and experience to deliver your desired results. To help you make the best decision on choosing your plastic surgeon, we have created a checklist of important questions that you should ask at your consultation. The best patient, is an informed patient!

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

YES

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 800-635-0635 or look them up on the web at <http://www1.plasticsurgery.org/ebusiness4/PatientConsumers/findasurgeon.aspx>.
- 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 (847) 491-9091. or look them up on the web at <https://www.abms.org/WC/login.aspx>.
- 3. Does the surgeon have a clean Malpractice record?**  
It is important to know if the surgeon has any Malpractice lawsuits against them; and how this was resolved. These public records, can be verified by looking them up at: <https://apps.fldfs.com/PLCR/Search/MPLClaim.aspx> and type in the physician's name. Make sure to spell the surgeon's name correctly.
- 4. Is the surgeon authorized to perform the procedure in local hospitals?**  
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.
- 5. Do you feel comfortable with the surgeon?**  
Feeling comfortable with your doctor will allow you to communicate your specific needs so that you can achieve the precise look you desire. 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.
- 6. Do you feel comfortable with the staff?**  
This is important because often you spend as much time with the staff as the surgeon. They will be the ones that coordinate your surgical process and will be your support team throughout your cosmetic surgery experience.
- 7. Is the surgeon reachable if you have questions or problems?**  
Your surgeon 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.
- 8. 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.
- 9. Do you like the before and after pictures from other patients?**  
A surgeon's style is often evident in the before and after pictures.
- 10. 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.
- 11. Has the surgeon received advanced training specifically in cosmetic surgery in addition to the standard plastic surgery training?** This is important because this denotes that the surgeon is indeed a specialist in the field of cosmetic surgery.
- 12. Has the surgeon performed this procedure on many patients?**  
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.