

Tips on "HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR SURGEON" for a cosmetic surgery procedure:

1) Ask the Doctor: "What residency did you complete, and where?" Though many MD doctors call themselves "cosmetic surgeons," sometimes those have not completed any surgical residency. While many MDs are experts in primary care, dermatology, OB-GYN, and even dentistry, some will not promote to a patient the license under which they practice medicine, or dentistry. Often, self-designated 'cosmetic surgeons' apply for third party "board certifications" that are not endorsed by the ABMS (American Board of Medical Specialties), the board certification most endorsed by medical schools across the country.

NOTE: there is no such thing as a "cosmetic surgery" residency in medical schools, which train the classic specialties we've all come to know. If you look for the phrase: "*board certified PLASTIC SURGEON*", you will find members who have completed at least five years of surgery residency training, with at least two years specializing in plastic surgery procedures and care, throughout the body.

2) Ensure that the Doctor performing your procedure has met the strict, locally scrutinized qualifications to earn hospital privileges in the very procedure being performed on you, even if the procedure is done elsewhere. *Obtaining "hospital privileges"* in a cosmetic procedure means that the hospital board has endorsed the surgeon to be well trained and safe enough to perform surgery in their operating rooms. Plastic surgeons typically have several hospital privileges, even if they perform their surgical procedures in their own surgi-center or office setting.

3) Can the Doctor "admit you through the local ER, and have hospital admitting privileges to repair any complications incurred?" Or, will the Doctor have to leave you to others at the nearest ER, to repair any problems. Board certified Plastic Surgeons are trained for years, not only to perform the initial surgery, but also in the reconstruction of complications that may arise.

4) Ask whether the MD will only "be present in the clinic", or *will they actually be performing the cosmetic surgical procedure*. You should know exactly what you are getting at the other end of the scalpel. Ask also, how often your surgeon performs the procedure being considered.

5) If you see only glossy photos in an advertisement reading "before" and "after" photos: be very aware of the scam artists out there. *If it looks too good to be true, it probably is*. Read the fine print. The photos are often "not real patients" but rather models, and this should be clearly known. Other factors (weight loss, surgery, pregnancy, etc.) may also be present influencing the results. No surgeon should be misrepresenting the truth.

6) *Don't go to foreign lands for cheap plastic surgery*, expecting safety. No country offers the kind of great follow-up, malpractice protection, complication care coverage, emergent hospitalization, and technology and scrutiny that we have here. Being left with a heart attack, poor sterilization of equipment against hepatitis, TB, etc. is not worth the risk. Plastic Surgery is real surgery, and your best trained surgeons will be those with the most years, most scrutiny, most training, and highest standards.

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