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25 Wacky Questions About Plastic Surgery

We launched an investigation into everything from boob jobs to Botox... and we mean *everything*. No topic was too weird for us to tackle. **By Molly Triffin**

▶ Cosmetic surgery has reached a fever pitch among young women. Aside from the bevy of gorgeous celebs in their 20s and 30s who have had work done, females outside Hollywood are tweaking their looks more too. The American Society of Plastic Surgeons found that 40 percent of women who had a surgical procedure in 2007 were between ages 20 and 39.

What's driving the boom? "It's gotten cheaper," says Arthur Perry, MD, author of *Straight Talk About Plastic Surgery*, "and it's also more socially acceptable." And MDs report that females in their 20s are opting for preventative Botox. You probably even know someone who's had plastic surgery and, with all the buzz, have some questions you're dying to ask on the subject. Here, what's true and what's BS.

Q Can you gain weight again after lipo? Can some people who've had it still not be skinny? And if you get your stomach sucked, will fat accumulate in other body parts?

Yes to all. If you eat more calories than you burn, you'll gain weight, even following lipo. And added poundage will indeed relocate. Your body doesn't produce fat cells after adolescence, so once you remove those cells via lipo, fat won't deposit in the areas worked on. But it has to go somewhere.

Q After getting lipo, will the excess skin shrink back to size?

Probably. It depends on your genes and how elastic your skin is. If you have stretch marks (i.e., because you



Lipo isn't a magic technique to get instantly skinny. Certain types of fat can only be shed via diet and exercise.


gained the weight quickly), that's a sign your skin has little elasticity and isn't likely to shrink back completely. The loose flesh will just hang there.

Q If a guy squeezes your implants too hard during sex, can they burst or alter shape?

It's impossible. He'd have to use superhuman force to rupture them. And they won't change shape.



Not the look lipo patients aim for



83%
of guys say
they would be
turned off if
they knew a
woman had
plastic surgery.

SOURCE: COSMO WEB POLL

Um, like she
needs any
work done

Q Could a breast reduction cause your boobs to end up different sizes or shapes?

Absolutely. They may turn out asymmetrical if your doctor doesn't have a good eye for aesthetics or is inexperienced or if two surgeons work simultaneously on opposite sides.

Q Will you lose sensation in your breasts or nipples if you get implants?

There's a chance. It's very unusual to lose feeling in your entire breast, but about 5 percent of patients experience numbness in their nipples. This may occur if their nerves are cut or stretched during surgery.

Q Can breast implants freeze in negative temperatures?

No. Because implants are inside your body, they're constantly in a warm, ambient environment.

Q Do implants make it harder to detect a breast-cancer lump?

It depends. Very large implants (more than two cup sizes bigger than your real breasts) that are placed directly under your breast tissue and skin, instead of beneath your pectoral muscles, could conceal a lump.

Q Why does Heather Locklear's face seem so thick? Is it filler?

There's a good chance. Fillers (Restylane, collagen, etc.) are substances injected into parts of the face—like cheeks and jowls—to increase tissue mass so your face looks plump and smooth. They can also lead to a puffy appearance and distorted features.



Did she or didn't she?

Q Can guys tell if you've had implants based on how your breasts look and feel?

Usually. These clues might tip them off: nipples that point in different directions, an asymmetrical set (though both can occur naturally), a scar, ripples in silicone implants, or visible edges of the implants around the perimeter of your breasts. In addition, implants can become encapsulated, meaning scar tissue forms underneath one or both breasts, hardening their texture.

Q Will getting Botox reduce sensation in your face?

Nope. Botox targets only your muscles; it doesn't affect the nerves that regulate sensation.

Q Will kissing a guy feel different after receiving a Restylane injection in your lips?

Yes. Your lips will feel more sensitive,

firm, and full, especially in the two weeks following the procedure.

Q Why are Nicole Kidman's eyebrows so deeply arched? Is that due to Botox?

Most likely. Some facial muscles are designed to lift; others pull down (i.e., raising and lowering your brows use different muscles). If a patient wants

Ways to Tell If Someone's Had Bad Work Done

BOTOX

(a) Her eyebrows don't move because her forehead muscles are paralyzed. (b) Her upper eyelids droop—Botox in her forehead might seep into the muscles that lift her lids and relax them, resulting in saggingness.

LIP

Her skin is lumpy and bumpy—e.g., her stomach looks fuller in one spot, and right next to that, you see a dip or folds of skin.

A NOSE JOB

(a) Her nose is very narrow and pointy at the tip. (b) It resembles a ski jump, with the end of her nose angled up.

A LIP INJECTION

(a) Her top and bottom lips are equally full. (b) Her lower lip sticks out farther than her upper lip.

higher brows, her doctor can paralyze the "pulling down" muscles with Botox so her brows are unable to drop.

Q Can Botox or filler migrate from one body part to another?

It's possible. Botox might drift to nearby muscles and cause problems like double vision. Filler will only travel if your MD misplaces it or you smush it repeatedly under the skin, pushing it where it doesn't belong.

Q Can Botox make your face crooked if it's injected unevenly?

It could happen, especially near the mouth. There are 23 muscles in that area, and the exact same amount of Botox must be injected into precisely the same spot over and over. Otherwise, you'll have a

Q After a Botox or filler facial accident, how do you fix it?

Nope. Botox is a muscle relaxant, not a corrective agent. If you overuse it on a relatively expressive face, injecting into the wrong spots, it can prevent you from smiling.

Q Can cheek implants get dislodged and slide elsewhere?

Definitely. They are prone to drifting and can even wind up in your mouth. But they won't go south of your face.

Q If you have surgery to reduce heavy eyelids, could the doctor remove too much skin, so you're unable to close your eyes?

Yep. And that can lead to ulcers, infections, and even blindness.

Q Is it possible for your nose to collapse after getting a nose job?

It's rare. If a nose job is overdone or you've had multiple rhinoplasties, you're at risk for nasal collapse (called saddle-nose deformity). Your bones and cartilage may be altered to a point where they can't support the external structure of your nose, causing the bridge of your nose to cave in.

Q Is it true that you can graft skin from your butt onto your face to look younger?

That's a myth. But you can have fat liposuctioned from your butt and used as a facial filler to smooth and fill in wrinkles...although the transplanted fat can later shrink or not luminesce.

SOURCES: DONALD BOHAY, MD, SPOKESPERSON FOR THE AMERICAN ORTHOPAEDIC FOOT AND ANKLE SOCIETY; ALAN GOLD, MD, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR AESTHETIC PLASTIC SURGERY; BOSTON PLASTIC SURGEON CHRISTINE HAMORE; RANDAL HAWORTH, MD, FOUNDER OF THE HAWORTH INSTITUTE FOR AESTHETIC SURGERY; ROBERT KOTLER, MD, AUTHOR OF SECRETS OF A BEVERLY HILLS COSMETIC SURGEON; STUART LINDER, MD, AUTHOR OF THE BEVERLY HILLS SHAPE; ARTHUR PERRY, MD; NEW YORK PLASTIC SURGEON JENNIFER WALDEN; NEW YORK PODIATRIC SURGEON JOHANNA YOUNGER

reducing their size can emaciate those buttocks. Although there's no reason to worry about your labia's appearance—guys rarely care about it—if you are self-conscious, labiaplasty can help you feel more confident naked.

Q Can people really get addicted to plastic surgery?

Yes. They might be suffering from body dysmorphic disorder, a condition where your brain doesn't correctly interpret what you look like. For instance, you might believe your nose is as giant as Cyrano de Berger-

ac, when in truth, it's average. People fixate on small imperfections and repeatedly undergo cosmetic surgery in an attempt to improve them.

Q Can butt implants explode if you fall hard enough?

No.

Q Is there really a shot for the G-spot?

Yes. Collagen is injected into the G-spot, supposedly enlarging it from the size of a dime to the size of two stacked nickels. The theory is that making this nerve-rich area more prominent will boost your pleasure and arousal because you'll feel increased friction during sex. But there's no scientific evidence proving it works.

Q Is it true that to make wearing heels more comfortable, women are receiving filler injections in the balls of their feet, having toes shortened, or getting their pinkie toes tucked?

Yes. It's extremely uncommon—and definitely not recommended—to have these procedures done for cosmetic purposes, but it does happen.

Q What is the most popular plastic surgery among men?

Lipo. Almost 58,000 men underwent the procedure last year, mostly in the belly and love-handle areas.

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FILLER

(a) Her complexion looks waxy—filler changes the composition of your skin and stretches it more tightly, making it shiny. (b) Her cheeks barely move when she smiles. (c) She has lumps in her face.

A BOOB JOB

Her breasts maintain the same shape when she moves (a real set will flatten when she reaches up or fall forward when she leans over).

SOURCE: JENNIFER WALDEN, MD

