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BEYOND THE WRINKLES

Some new techniques give cosmetic surgery a lift

By Nanci Hellmich
USA TODAY

Surgeons across the USA are changing the face of plastic surgery with new and revised procedures.

One surgeon has developed an operation that he says restores a more youthful-looking face without a face lift. Another is using a type of "Super Glue" to replace stitches in some facial plastic surgeries. And still another has refined an operation for removing crow's feet.

It's no wonder surgeons are scrambling to come up with new techniques. Cosmetic surgery jumped 24 percent between 1984 and 1986, according to a survey from the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons.

Here's a look at some of the latest operations and techniques:

► **Submalar augmentation:** To give patients a younger look without a face lift, a Los Angeles facial plastic surgeon developed a procedure which involves inserting solid silicone implants below the cheekbones through an incision inside the mouth.

Dr. William Binder, a clinical faculty member of surgery at UCLA, says his submalar augmentation is especially attractive to people between 35 and 50 — when the fatty tissues



Courtesy of Dr. William Binder

SUBMALAR AUGMENTATION: Implants below the cheekbone, right, fill out areas hollowed by soft tissue loss, left. The implants may postpone face lifts for some people, says Dr. William Binder.

around the cheeks begin to atrophy, giving the face a sort of hollow look.

Potential patients in their 40s often come to his office asking for a face lift, Binder says. "But they don't have loose neck skin, they don't have jowls."

Binder, who has studied 170 patients for an average of 3½

years, says the submalar augmentation "postpones the face-lift procedure for when it will do the patient the most good."

Several surgeons who use Binder's implants call it a missing link in facial plastic surgery. Others caution that the procedure is not for everyone.

Dr. Norman Pastorek, a clinical associate professor of oto-

laryngology at New York Hospital, Cornell Medical Center, says the augmentation below the cheekbones would only benefit a small group of people "who are skinny to start with." Many people, he says, "still will benefit from a face lift."

But Binder counters: "Most of the aging phenomenon occurs in the mid-third of the

Personal considerations

Facial plastic surgery should not be taken lightly simply because its purpose is to improve appearance. Like any other surgery, it carries risks.

Here's some personal considerations patients should think about before having plastic surgery:

► What specific features do you want corrected? It's important that you've evaluated what you'd like changed.

► How long have you been thinking about having surgery? You need to make sure it's a deep-seated problem and not just a whim.

► What caused you to begin thinking about it? Is having surgery your idea or someone else's? You should be doing it for yourself and not somebody else.

► Do you understand that the object of any facial plastic surgery is to improve appearance, not to achieve perfection? Nothing in life is perfect, so it's important that you're realistic about what can be accomplished.

► Have you had any previous facial plastic surgery? Were you satisfied with the results? The surgeon needs to know your plastic surgery history before you undergo another surgery.

(Source: Dr. Ferdinand Becker, a facial plastic surgeon in Vero Beach, Fla., and *The Face Book: The Pros and Cons of Facial Plastic Surgery* by the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. For more information call (800) 332-FACE.)

face and therefore that is the area that needs to be augmented and treated."

► **Histoacryl.** Dr. Frank M. Kamer, a Beverly Hills facial plastic surgeon and president of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, is using a type of "Super Glue" to close some

lower eyelid surgeries.

Histoacryl, which is manufactured in West Germany, can be used to close some wounds that are not under tension, he says.

"It eliminates suture marks," says Kamer, who has used the non-toxic polymer on more than 100 patients in the

last two years.

► **Crow's feet.** For some people, wrinkles around the eyes are a sign of character. But for others they can be troublesome — making it difficult to see.

Dr. David Reiter, co-director of the Center for Facial Plastic Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, has refined an operation for correcting crow's feet.

The operation involves taking a "tuck" in skin at the corner of the eye leaving a small scar shaped like an "X."

Reiter says he has performed the operation about 15 times. Most of the patients had obstructed peripheral vision because of the excessive skin around the eye area.

He cautions: "This is not an operation for 34-year-olds with expression lines. There are other more effective ways to treat them. This is for the older person whose crow's feet are so big that they're causing problems."

But Dr. Sherrell Aston, an associate professor of plastic surgery at New York University School of Medicine, says the key to correcting crow's feet lies in fixing the squinting muscle, which he does sometimes during face lifts.

But Reiter thinks that simply removing the skin gives a dramatic enough improvement.

VIA SATELLITE



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