

# Choosing the Best Plastic Surgeon for You Checklist

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

Surgeons

Dr. Placik		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Questions

**1. Is the surgeon a member of the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery?**

This society requires that a surgeon be board certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery (see below), be a member of ASPS (see below), and have a practice that is over 50% cosmetic. This means that they have the training and perform mostly cosmetic plastic surgery instead of mainly reconstructive. Verify by either calling 888-272-7711 or look them up on the web at [www.surgery.org](http://www.surgery.org). Note: If you check this box, you can also check the next two

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

**2. 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 [www.plasticsurgery.org](http://www.plasticsurgery.org).

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

**3. 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 800-777-2378 or look them up on the web at [www.certifieddoctor.com](http://www.certifieddoctor.com).

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

**4. Is the surgeon authorized to perform the procedure in a hospital in town?**

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.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

**5. Do you feel comfortable with the surgeon?**

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.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

**6. Do you feel comfortable with the staff?**

This is important because often you spend as much time with the staff as the surgeon.

Surgeons

Questions - continued

Dr.

**7. Is the surgeon reachable if you have questions or problems?**

Your surgeon or the nurse 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. What is the surgeon's policy for revisions?**

While we always hope for an uneventful recovery, once in a while a minor procedure enhancement is required in order to get the best result. To protect yourself, find out how the surgeon charges for touch ups.

**12. How many procedures has the surgeon performed?**

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.

**13. Is your surgeon a speaker at educational seminars for other surgeons?**

Going to a surgeon who is a speaker at educational seminars for other surgeons can tell you how qualified and respected your surgeon is in their field.

**14. Is Plastic Surgeon an Academic Faculty member?**

Participation in ongoing educational and teaching activities will ensure that your plastic surgeon remains up to date on important matters about techniques and safety.

Surgeons

## Questions - continued

Dr.

**15. Is the Plastic Surgeon a published author?**

Writing articles in peer reviewed journals demonstrates a commitment to excellence and a desire to learn and teach and share with colleagues.

**16. Has the Plastic Surgeon written chapters in textbooks?**

Being invited by colleagues to contribute topics of interest indicates that the Plastic Surgeon is a recognized expert in their field.

**17. Does the Plastic Surgeon hold any patents on Plastic Surgery inventions?**

This indicates a dedication to improving the science and advancement of plastic surgery with innovative concepts that are recognized by the United States Patent Office.

**18. Has the Plastic Surgeon participated in ongoing research and FDA clinical Trials?**

An interest in scientific studies ensures that your physician is devoted to improving and communicating the understanding of plastic surgery. Participation in stringent research protocols often requires oversight of the physician's education, background, training, certifications, and ethical participation.

**19. Has the Plastic Surgeon been elected to hold appointments or positions?**

Being a department chairman or committee member shows that colleagues believe the individual is worthy of holding office and decision making and responsibility.

**20. Has the Plastic Surgeon pursued advanced studies in art?**

An appreciation for aesthetic canons reveals that the surgeon is more likely to have a well-rounded grasp of beauty that enhances their skills as a surgical technician.

**21. Is the Plastic Surgeon's office located on the campus of a hospital?**

This typically requires staff membership at a hospital and regular credentialing of the Plastic Surgeon by peer review on an ongoing basis.

**22. Does the plastic surgeon regularly have other medical professionals as**

This is a sign that other co-workers, who have specialized insight and knowledge of the surgeon's background and skills, trust them enough to be their (and oftentimes their family's) own personal physician. That really says a lot.