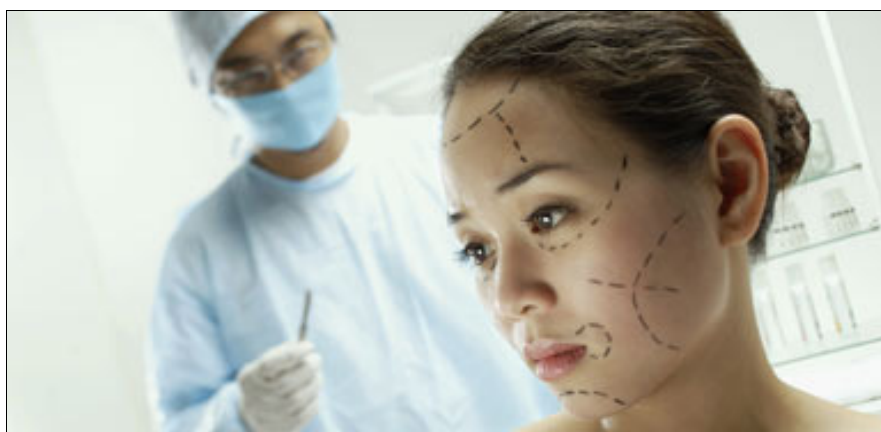


Cosmetic surgery: make me the way I was

by Peta Bee, Times Online, 10 March 2008 (slightly adapted)

The number of people undergoing cosmetic surgery is soaring° – but so are the figures° for those who want the operation ‘undone’.

rising numbers



New York Governor Eliot Spitzer says sorry with his wife Silda at his side

If anyone was considered the unlikeliest° candidate for a breast reduction, one might have been forgiven for thinking it would be Katie Price, the glamour model formerly known as Jordan, whose defining feature was her gigantic and ever-expanding boobs. Yet in recent months Price has jetted° to and from America to drop from a highly inflated° 32FF to a 32D. What is even more surprising, perhaps, is that she is by no means alone in wanting to relinquish° the prize assets on which, presumably, she has spent a small fortune.

the most improbable

*to fly in a plane
to fill sth with gas or air*

to stop having sth

Dubbed° the “undo-plastics” by surgeons in America, some of whom claim that 50 per cent of their work is now rejigging° jobs of this type, a growing number of those who have been under the knife for everything from facelifts to buttock° implants are now regretting it. And they are now coughing up° more cash to have operations that will return them to a state of being (almost) “natural”.

*nicknamed
to make sth change*

*backside; to give money
unwillingly*

The rocker Courtney Love recently wrote on her MySpace page that, after vowing° not to undergo any more cosmetic surgery “until I really need it in my sixties”, she had relented° to revert to a more “natural” look for her surgically changed nose and lips. “I hated that nosejobby nose, it was like a little beak. I’ve had my nose fixed. It looks like the one God gave me so I’m happy not to have crazy lips and a crazy teensy° unnatural little nose,” she wrote. “All I care about is that my self-esteem is limitless and intact.”

*to make a formal promise
to finally agree*

*very small
to interrupt*

It is not just celebrities° who wish they had never visited a surgeon. Tina Lovente, a 38-year-old dental nurse from Newcastle upon Tyne, recently paid for a second operation to reverse° a rhinoplasty (nose job) procedure that she had four years ago. “I had always had a slight bend in my nose at the top and I hated it, although nobody had ever mentioned it or teased me

*famous people such as
actors or singers
to change to opposite*

about it at school,” she says. “When I started work I began to save up to have it straightened at a clinic in London. But it never felt right from the start. After having the procedure done it looked too narrow. I regretted it very early on and I just thought ‘My God, what have I done to myself?’ More people commented that I looked odd° than ever before.”

strange

One thing is certain: the growth in “cosmetic revision” is not indicative° of a move towards ageing gracefully° with wrinkles, eyebags and floppy jowls intact. Cosmetic surgery is more popular than ever. A recent Mintel report predicts that Britons are likely to spend £1 billion on tummy tucks, liposuction and the like in 2008 with the number of procedures having doubled in two years to 1,600 a day in 2007. Facelifts and breast surgery are the two most popular operations, although one in five facial° surgery procedures last year was a nose job. [...]

*showing
charmingly*

connected with sb's face

“Reversing browlifts° is particularly common,” Mercer says. “Women realise that if you change the position of eyebrows, you can end up looking surprised all the time. Now they come back and want that look softened and the brows put back where they used to be.” [...] Over several months, 22 women aged between 32-62 who were unhappy with their “unnaturally over-elevated eyebrows and hairline”, came to his clinic for surgery to correct them. [...]

*the procedure of lifting of
one's eyebrows*

Certainly, some of the corrective procedures are the result of more operations going wrong, especially those done on “cosmetic vacations” abroad. A report last year by Baaps indicated that one third of British surgeons have carried out “much more” repair work than they were asked to do five years ago, with 44 per cent of surgeons claiming to have seen at least three to five dissatisfied patients who had been treated on holiday in the past year. [...]

Useful vocabulary

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| surgery | <i>medical treatment of injuries or diseases that involves cutting open the body and often removing or replacing some parts; the branch of medicine connected with this treatment</i> |
| breast reduction | <i>an operation to reduce the size of a woman's breast</i> |
| feature | <i>something important, interesting or typical of a place or thing</i> |
| to spend a (small) fortune | <i>to spend a large amount of money</i> |
| undo-plasties | <i>nickname for surgeons who reverse the cosmetic surgery of others</i> |
| to undergo (surgery) | <i>to experience sth, especially a change or sth unpleasant</i> |
| beak | <i>the hard pointed or curved outer part of a bird's mouth</i> |
| to have sth fixed | <i>to have sth corrected or repaired</i> |
| unnatural | <i>different from what is normal or expected</i> |
| self-esteem | <i>a feeling of being happy with your own character and abilities</i> |
| surgeon | <i>a doctor who is trained to perform medical operations in a hospital</i> |
| to be likely to | <i>it is probable that ...</i> |

Some questions for discussion

Why is cosmetic surgery so popular with both young and elderly people?
Apart from their looks, how do or how could people define their personality?