



cheek implants

(malar augmentation)

Some people feel that their cheekbones are too flat and out of proportion with the rest of their face and they turn to cosmetic surgery to get improved and enhanced facial contours.



about cheek implants

Facial implants can enhance your appearance and boost your self-esteem, but they cannot make you look perfect.



A surgical cheek (malar) implant can raise the cheekbones to provide a more harmonious balance to your face and features so that you feel better about the way you look. Cheek implants are sometimes performed at the same time as a facelift.



your consultation

During the consultation, your surgeon will take a full medical history and will listen to your complaints and your expectations. He will then help you determine what it is possible to achieve.



You need to be realistic in your expectations when choosing to go ahead with surgery.

preparing for surgery

If the surgery will require an incision inside your mouth, it is important that you inform your surgeon if you smoke or if you have any dental or gum problems. Don't be afraid to ask any questions for your total peace of mind.

Your surgeon will tell you if you'll need to refrain from eating or drinking the night before your surgery. He will also advise you to stop taking any medications, including aspirin and similar drugs that may cause excessive bleeding.



your operation

The operation works by building on your existing bone structure. The implants will be inserted through incisions placed either inside your mouth where your cheek joins your upper gum, or in the lower eyelids.

The material used for the implant is usually silicone or another manufactured material that is tolerated well by the body. However, it is sometimes necessary to use a bone graft.

No visible scar is left if the implant is inserted through the mouth. However, if a bone graft is used there will be scarring in the area the graft is taken from - usually the hip. Your doctor will discuss the procedure beforehand and make a recommendation based on your overall medical condition.

Usually, cheek implant surgery requires general anaesthesia and takes about 30 to 45 minutes. When being performed in conjunction with another cosmetic procedure, such as a facelift, forehead lift or eyelid surgery, the implants may be inserted through the incisions made for those procedures.

After surgery, a dressing will be applied to minimize discomfort and swelling. You will also be prescribed medication to relieve any pain that you might experience after the anaesthetic wears off.

recovery

After your surgery there will be dietary restrictions as well as limitations to your activities.

Your ability to move your mouth and lips may be diminished temporarily. The stitches inside your mouth usually dissolve within about 10 days.

Avoid for several weeks participating in certain activities that could result in your face being jarred or bumped.

You may not be able to accurately evaluate your appearance for weeks, or perhaps even months. Take time in getting used to your new look.

The results may not be obvious. Most people will not recognize that you've had cheek implant surgery -- only that you look better.



risks and complications

A facial implant can shift slightly out of alignment and this requires a second operation to replace it in its proper position. Like with any operation, a certain risk of infection has to be considered. This is normally treated with antibiotics. If it doesn't clear up after treatment, the implant might have to be temporarily removed and replaced at a later time.

Some of the implant materials are made of a solid silicone. Currently, there is no scientific evidence that this is a harmful substance.