



chin augmentation (*mentoplasty*)

The chin augmentation surgery aims to bring your features into better, more attractive balance. It increases the size of the chin either through the use of an implant, or by removing a section of bone, moving it forward and fixing it into position.



about chin augmentation

Chin augmentation procedure offers benefit to persons who have a recessed chin and who may also have a prominent nose. Cosmetic chin surgery adds definition to the jaw and balances the appearance of a large nose. Candidates for chin surgery should be in good health and have reasonable expectations about the result of the surgery.



Your surgeon may choose to perform the procedure in conjunction with a face lift or nose reshaping. He will decide whether chin augmentation is appropriate if your dental occlusion is correct. If it is not, orthognatic surgery supported by orthodontic preparation may be needed. This process can take as much as two years.



your consultation

During your consultation your surgeon will take a general medical history and ask about any other surgeries you might have had in the past. He will also ask you about your goals and expectations. Then he will talk to you about the various options available, and will advise you on the best procedure for you.





preparing for surgery

After a thorough examination and a full medical history, your surgeon will discuss with you about the technique used to correct the problem.

Before your surgery:

- You should not take aspirin or anti-inflammatory medicines such as ibuprofen for 3 weeks before surgery.
- Avoid alcoholic beverages for 24 hours prior to surgery.
- Stop or reduce smoking for at least 2 weeks prior and after surgery.
- Do not wear any jewellery, contact lenses, makeup or nail polish.

your operation

Insertion of a chin implant may take anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour. During the procedure, the surgeon selects the proper size and shape implant to enhance your appearance and inserts it into a pocket over the front of the jawbone. The small incision to create the pocket where the implant is inserted can be placed inside the mouth (along the lower lip) or in the skin just under the chin area.

Usually performed under local anaesthesia or local and IV sedation, chin augmentation surgery is typically performed as a day case. If the surgery is done at the same time as a face lift or neck lift, the incision will most likely be placed under the chin and also used as access for the neck rejuvenation.

To prepare the place for the implant, your surgeon will first detach the chin tissues from the bone. He will then place the implant, adjust it as needed and fix it to the bone with two titanium screws. Finally, he will reattach the chin tissues over the implant and will close your wounds with absorbable stitches.

If the bones need to be reshaped, your surgeon will remove a horizontal wedge of bone from the lower part of the chin, move it forward and fix it into its new position. Alternatively, he may remove a wedge of bone just over the chin point. Thus he will reposition the chin slightly back and higher up to produce a chin in better harmony with your other features.

After surgery, usually the chin is taped to minimize swelling and discomfort.



recovery

You will experience some discomfort and swelling in the affected area for several days. It is also normal to experience some temporary difficulty with smiling and talking. Black and blue marks may be visible around the chin and neck. Your cosmetic surgeon will instruct you about dental hygiene, eating and any restrictions to your activities after surgery.

As you recover, there are a few things you should remember:

- If your surgery was done through incisions inside your mouth, your surgeon will recommend you to stick to a soft diet for the first week so your wounds can heal properly.
- Chewing can cause your suture line to break and lead to infection.
- Please take the antibiotics and painkillers prescribed by your surgeon.
- Do not take aspirin as it can promote bleeding.
- Brush your teeth regularly, even if you have incisions inside your mouth. Rinse with an antiseptic mouthwash four times a day.
- Be sure to take two weeks away from work to allow your bruises to clear and your chin to settle sufficiently.

risks and complications

With chin augmentation, there is a risk of infection caused by a breakdown of incisions within your mouth. If this happens, your surgeon will advise you to remove the implant in order to control the infection. The procedure can be repeated three to four months later.

In very seldom case, the nerves that give feeling to the lower lip may be damaged during surgery, usually leading to temporarily numbness in the lower lip.