
Rhinoplasty (nose surgery)

By editor

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Rhinoplasty is a surgical procedure which surgeon improve the function (reconstructive surgery) and/or the appearance (cosmetic surgery) of a person's nose. Rhinoplasty is also commonly called a "nose reshaping". Rhinoplasty can be performed to meet aesthetic goals or for reconstructive purposes to correct trauma, birth defects or breathing problems. It can be combined with other surgical procedures such as chin augmentation to enhance the aesthetic results.

In addition to these corrective procedures, surgeons now use cosmetic plastic surgery to perform subtle aesthetic changes to nose size and shape. Primary rhinoplasty is a nose-reshaping plastic surgery, that can be performed under local anesthesia (you are awake) or under general anesthesia (you are asleep). Cosmetic nose surgery is often performed in a doctor's outpatient surgical suite. Rhinoplasty normally requires one to three hours in surgery, depending on the amount of nose reshaping to be done. Two types of rhinoplasty include "open" versus "closed."

Secondary rhinoplasty is performed to correct problems that persist or develop after a previous rhinoplasty. Although the problems may be minor and easily corrected, often the problems are major, which makes the secondary rhinoplasty more difficult, requiring more expertise than the primary surgery.



Before



After

The goals of secondary rhinoplasty are to reconstruct the nasal framework, so that the nose appears natural, functions properly, and is in balance with the other facial features. To accomplish this, it is necessary to reconstruct and reshape the supporting framework of cartilage and bone through an open approach, using cartilage grafts obtained from either the ear or a rib. With the proper techniques, significant improvement and sometimes dramatic results can be achieved. Because of the complexity, a secondary rhinoplasty can take two to three times as long as a primary rhinoplasty and can cost twice as much, depending on the number of grafts used to reshape the nasal framework. Most secondary rhinoplasties are performed with general anesthesia at outpatient surgery facilities or hospitals.

Open Rhinoplasty

For major nose reshaping, the incisions are not made inside the nose. Instead, incisions are made in the vertical strip of skin separating the nostrils. This is called the columella. This more complex procedure is referred to as "open" rhinoplasty.

Closed Rhinoplasty

For minor reshaping, many surgeons make incisions within the nose. The skin of the nose is then

separated from the bone and cartilage, which form its supporting framework. Once exposed, bone and cartilage can be removed, reshaped, augmented, or rearranged to achieve the desired new shape. For example, to make the nose narrower, cartilage can be removed down the front spine of the nose. After the cartilage and bone have been changed, the nose tissues are redraped over the newly shaped structures and the incisions are close.

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