

PLASTIC SURGERY BUYING GUIDE

7 QUESTIONS EVERY SURGEON MUST BE ABLE TO ANSWER



THE DEFINITIVE PATIENTS GUIDE

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The Definitive Patients Guide

1. Have you completed at least five years of surgical training with a minimum of two years exclusively in plastic surgery?

Why is this important? Because it guarantees that the surgeon you are electing to perform your procedure has been thoroughly trained to perform plastic surgery. Any type of surgical procedure requires a high degree of knowledge and training in order to ensure a positive outcome. A surgeon that is a specialist in plastic surgery guarantees you the best possible outcome. Think of it this way all auto mechanics know their way around a car, but only a few are trained to work on luxury vehicles like a Tesla, BMW, or Mercedes.

2. Are you trained and experienced in all plastic surgery procedures, including breast, body, face and reconstruction?

Again you want a thoroughly trained surgeon that has plenty of experience under his or her belt. This not only guarantees that they've worked with a wide range of patients, but that in case there was a complication they are better trained to handle it due to their varied background. A surgeon is likely to gravitate towards a few procedures and make them their favorite or their specialty, but they should have enough "tools" in their "tool box" to perform any procedure.

3. Do you operate only in accredited medical facilities?

It might be easy to forget to ask this, but it should be at the top of your list of things to look for when selecting a surgeon. You want to make sure that the facilities they use are up to date and have been inspected and accredited by an independent non-partial third party. A facility can be unaccredited because it failed to meet minimum standards. The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) is one that is commonly found in the medical facility where a surgeon might operate.

4. What's your code of ethics?

A surgeon who will not "overprescribe" surgical procedures and who objectively diagnoses a prospective patient to make sure they are an ideal candidate for plastic surgery is key. At the same time a surgeon should not mislead a prospective patient about the outcome they can

expect to see from their procedure if they're not sure it can be achieved. On the flip side it might be easy for a patient to become annoyed, frustrated or even angered with a surgeon refusing to perform a procedure. Rest assured that the surgeon has done this with your best intentions in mind.

5. How are you fulfilling your continuing education requirements, including standards & innovations in patient safety?

All surgeons are required to meet minimum requirements if they want to keep their medical license and certifications. However you would like to work with a surgeon that is consistently learning more about how to make his or her practice safer for their patients and provide better outcomes. So look for surgeons that go beyond the minimum requirements and are constantly learning. Ask about continuing education they have recently taken recently.

6. Are you board certified by The American Board of Plastic Surgery (ABPS)?

Certification is voluntary and surgeons that are certified are those that are willing to hold themselves and their practices to a higher standard, both in terms of education and ethics. In order for a surgeon to become certified they must undergo 5 years of resident training, 3 of which performing only plastic surgery. You can be assured that a surgeon that is ABPS certified has passed comprehensive test covering all aspects of plastic surgery. Surgeons that are certified by other medical boards don't have the same amount of training as an ABPS surgeon.

7. How do you educate your patients before their initial consultation and throughout the entire process?

This last question is often overlooked by surgeons who attract patients with low prices or special offers. An ideal surgeon will educate you before you set foot in their office for a consultation for three important reasons. One, you'll make a better patient. Meaning you'll have an accurate understanding of the type of results you can expect. Two, you will follow instructions more closely. Three, most importantly you'll make better decisions regarding treatment. If at first you wanted two different procedures to achieve your goal you may realize one simpler procedure or treatment might work just as well.