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## ... about plastic surgery

### What is plastic surgery?

Plastic surgery is a medical specialty concerned with the correction or restoration of form and function. While famous for aesthetic surgery, plastic surgery also includes many types of reconstructive surgery, hand surgery, microsurgery and the treatment of burns. For the record, the word *plastic* means molding or giving form and does not refer to the use of plastic materials.

### What should you know about plastic surgery?

When considering plastic surgery, it's natural to focus more on the expected result than on the surgical process. However, to be fully informed, it's important to learn about the safety of the procedure as well as the expected outcome. Although thousands of people have plastic surgery every year without complications, no surgical procedure is risk free. To maximize safety, ensure that:

- Your physician is a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) and is board certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery
- The facility where your surgery will be performed conforms to strict safety standards — ASPS Member Surgeons only operate in accredited facilities
- Your surgeon is informed of any medications you are taking and your full medical history
- The surgical facility will use skilled, licensed personnel to administer and monitor your anesthesia and your recovery immediately following the procedure
- Extra safety measures are taken if you are having a more extensive liposuction procedure.

Whether you're considering cosmetic or reconstructive plastic surgery, you want a doctor with more than six years of surgical training and experience, with at least three years specifically in plastic surgery.