

Cosmetic surgery is considered elective and a personal choice. Maintenance surgery, revision surgery and surgery as a result of complications should be considered prior to scheduling surgery as they are a part of the patient's financial responsibility. If funds are unavailable, patients should consider delaying their procedure.

Adverse outcomes in cosmetic plastic surgery can happen just as in any other type of surgery. Multiple steps are taken to minimize these and should have been discussed during your consultations. Unfortunately, complications that arise as a result of surgery often require additional surgical procedures. Despite all efforts and precautions exerted, an adverse result may be noted that may or may not be related to the body's reaction to the procedure(s). These include bleeding, infection, scarring and wound healing issues. These often require additional surgeries to correct. Furthermore, results not satisfactory to the patient and/or surgeon may need revision or "touch up".

Health insurance companies do not cover cosmetic procedures nor any additional surgery that may be needed to address any adverse outcomes. Revision surgery and surgery to address the adverse outcomes, therefore, are the patient's responsibility and will result in additional expenses. They may include hospital stays, ambulance or helicopter rides, surgical fees, medications and medical supplies. Patients need to remember that if they choose to have their surgery at a surgery center, a transfer to a hospital may be necessary to treat complications and associated fees will follow as outlined above.

Patients pay three different entities for their cosmetic surgery: the facility, the anesthesia providers (if involved), and the surgeon. Smaller procedures done in our office may not incur additional fees while the hospital or surgery center, will always charge additional fees. At his or her discretion, the surgeon may waive additional Surgeon's fees for additional procedures as outlined in the last paragraph.

As in other surgeries, your surgeon will advise you as to what sort of outcome may be expected from the revision(s), however, guarantees cannot be made due to factors outside of the surgeon's control. This does not mean that the surgery was unsuccessful or that the same outcome would not have occurred with another surgeon.

Although surgeons try to produce the best symmetry possible in cases of breast surgery, there is no such thing as perfect symmetry. There are no guarantees on breast/cup size or scar tissue formation after surgery. Breast implant patients should expect to need further surgery in their lifetime due to the lifespan of breast implants and the changes the body undergoes over time. Results may change with time due to gravity, skin elasticity, severity of the condition prior to surgery, medical conditions, age, smoking and other health issues.

Due to the unpredictable nature resulting from the body's reaction to breast implants, revision for breast implant capsular contracture will always require additional surgeon's fees. There may be a warranty in place from the implant manufacturer that covers the cost of a replacement implant and additional compensation to the patient, but this may

not cover the total fee for the surgery. In this situation, the patient is responsible for the balance.

In otoplasty surgery, fine permanent sutures are used to mold the rigid cartilage of the ear. Due to the inherent “memory” of the cartilage the sutures can move, become loose, or erode through the skin causing infection or recurrence of the protruding ear. Because of these unpredictable events, any revisions needed for otoplasty will always involve a surgeon’s fee. These can often times be done in an office setting with no extra charges, but that will be determined on a case by case basis.

In our practice, the surgical revision may not incur an additional surgeon’s fee, if such legitimate and realistic concern is raised during the first six months after the procedure. We typically waive our fee for small minor scar revision procedures that can be done in the office setting when this revision is mutually agreeable.

We always recommend that patients “do their homework” when choosing their surgeon. Cost should be a factor; however, it should not be the only factor in the selection process. Plastic surgeons should be “board – certified” by the American Board of Plastic Surgery and must have cosmetic surgery privileges at a major hospital to ensure safety.

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