

Choosing the Right Surgeon

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT PLASTIC SURGEON FOR YOUR PROCEDURE

By its very nature, Plastic Surgery is a delicate and exacting medical specialty requiring years of training and experience to achieve proficiency. Your choice of a qualified, experienced physician is an important decision in the overall success of your surgery.

I recommend the following three steps in choosing your Plastic Surgeon:

- 1. Research your options.** Start with people you know. Ask friends who have had the procedure and talk to them about their overall experience. Ask your family doctor, or nurses that you may know for their opinions.
- 2. Check credentials.** Look at detailed information about their training, board certification, hospital privileges, experience and professional society membership. Key among these credentials is the kind of accredited residency program your surgeon completed. Simply put, unless your surgeon completed an ACGME-approved Plastic Surgery training program, they're not really a plastic surgeon.

In most states including Florida, there is a large legal loophole: any licensed physician may designate himself or herself as a "cosmetic surgeon", and perform plastic surgery procedures without being board-certified in plastic surgery.

If a physician claims to be "board certified", make sure you find out the specific name of the certifying board. The only Plastic Surgery Boards approved by the State of Florida are the "American Board of Plastic Surgery" (for face and body) and the "American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery" (limited to face only).

There are no State-approved Boards or Certifications for "Cosmetic Surgery".

- 3. Schedule an initial consultation.** There is no substitute for meeting your prospective surgeon personally to get answers to your questions. During the initial consultation, you'll have time to ask specifically about the surgeon's training, and to obtain the details regarding the methods used for your procedure of interest.

Your surgeon should be well trained, properly credentialed, experienced in the procedure you are considering, and highly regarded by patients and colleagues alike.

We welcome your inquiries, and appreciate your interest in our practice. As a Board-Certified Plastic Surgeon, I am committed to delivering the highest possible quality in my field.

Please feel free to contact my office at **407-339-3222** if we may answer any questions about Plastic Surgery, or if you would like to schedule a consultation.

Choosing the Right Surgeon (Continued)

MAKING SENSE OF CERTIFICATION

Almost everyone has heard that they should look for a “board certified surgeon” when seeking a qualified plastic surgeon. Most people, however, aren’t exactly sure what this means.

Certification of Your Surgeon:

The American Board of Medical Specialists (ABMS) is the organization that oversees the issuing of credentialing certificates for all specialists in medicine or surgery throughout the USA. There are only 24 official “Boards” that meet the strict educational and examination standards set by the ABMS.

The 24 specialties are the American Boards of:

Allergy and Immunology
Anesthesiology
Colon and Rectal Surgery
Dermatology
Emergency Medicine
Family Practice
Internal Medicine
Medical Genetics
Neurological Surgery
Nuclear Medicine
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Ophthalmology

Orthopedic Surgery
Otolaryngology (Ear, Nose and Throat)
Pathology
Pediatrics
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Plastic Surgery
Preventive Medicine
Psychiatry and Neurology
Radiology
Surgery
Thoracic Surgery
Urology



**American Board of
Plastic Surgery**
ABMS MOC®

Certification Matters

The “American Board of Plastic Surgery” is the only ABMS board that has traditionally overseen the training and certification of Plastic Surgeons, including cosmetic and reconstructive surgery. Of note, there are no separate ABMS boards for Cosmetic Surgery, Oculofacial Plastic Surgery, Liposuction, or Aesthetic Surgery.

If you are unsure whether a physician is certified by one of the 24 ABMS Boards, you may call the ABMS at **1-866-ASK-ABMS** or look online at www.abms.org. Give them the name of the surgeon, and they will tell you if he or she is certified, and by which Board.

Another excellent source of information is the Medical Staff Office of your local hospital. Find out whether your surgeon has privileges to perform the proposed procedures in the hospital.

Choosing the Right Surgeon (Continued)

ANESTHESIA OPTIONS

Whenever you are heavily sedated or have general anesthesia, you put your life in someone else's hands. Much of that responsibility falls to the person administering the medications and monitoring your vital signs. You need to know the qualifications of the person assuming that responsibility. Their training can range from specialization after earning a medical degree (anesthesiologists) to specialization after nursing training (nurse anesthetists) to nursing training only.

We have chosen to use board-certified M.D. anesthesiologists for all general anesthesia care. We have selected MD anesthesiologists who are in active practice at a hospital because we believe their skills are at the highest level in the event of an emergency.

Other Anesthesia Providers

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA): A CRNA is an RN who has completed an additional two years of specialized training in anesthesiology. Their Certification is also overseen by each state's Board of Nursing. In contrast to an RN, a CRNA is able to administer general anesthesia.

Registered Nurse (RN): A nurse is licensed to administer intravenous drugs at the direction of the surgeon and monitor your vital signs. This may be used for operations involving minor procedures or minimal levels of sedation. Each state has its own Board of Nursing, but there is a great deal of common requirements between states.

YOUR CERTIFIED SURGERY FACILITY

Certification of the Operating Facility: Currently, the State of Florida has a number of rules regarding office-based Surgery. We support all legislation that promotes patient safety. A good indicator that your surgery center has the optimal equipment and trained staff is certification by either the State of Florida or one of the following national accreditation organizations.

Department of Health & Board of Medicine: Be sure your surgeon has registered his/her surgical facility with the Department of Health, Board of Medicine Division of Quality Assurance. You may also ask to see the posted certificate.

Certification of the facility may also be one of the following organizations:

- American Association for the Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF)
- Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC)
- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)

Our facility is certified by the AAAASF.