

Cheek Augmentation



Enhancement of the cheeks can often provide balance of facial features. The photo on the right demonstrates the improvement which may be obtained with cheek augmentation and rhinoplasty.

For centuries, high cheekbones have been a common characteristic of faces considered to be “beautiful.” In many cases building up underdeveloped or flattened cheeks can be accomplished by placing medical grade implants directly on the facial bones. The incisions are usually made inside the mouth and under the upper lip in order to avoid scars on the face. These incisions are closed with absorbable sutures which dissolve within 5-7 days.

A specialist in facial plastic surgery analyzes the face and attempts to select the appropriate implant for each patient and for each cheek. Rarely are the two sides of the face symmetrical prior to surgery, so one can expect some asymmetry to be present after the operation.

As is the case with any augmentation procedure there are imponderables, risks, and the possibility that the

operation might not reach a patient's expectations.

However, cheek augmentations, like chin augmentations, often add a finishing touch and provide better balance for patients seeking improved facial harmony.

The procedure can be performed in conjunction with many of the other procedures or can be done as an isolated procedure under the same “twilight” anesthesia.

Although the cheek areas are swollen initially and some bruising may occur, the swelling subsides in a few weeks. Most patients may return to work or resume “normal” activities within a few days after surgery. Patients are urged to avoid injury to the cheek region for 4-6 weeks. After that time it is unlikely that the implant(s) could be disturbed unless a severe blow should be received.