

Discount Plastic Surgery A Word to the Wise

So you've been thinking about having a little nip here, a little tuck there, a little more projection here, a little less projection there and are ready to begin searching the perfect doctor. What do you look for?

Maybe you have a friend or acquaintance who's had plastic surgery. Are they happy with their results? Or you've seen some slick advertisements promoting the miraculous results of a particular "plastic surgeon" or medical spa. How do you know your results are going to be just as spectacular? Are those pictures really that doctor's patients or are they some other doctor's patients? What about discount plastic surgery? Haven't all doctors performing plastic surgery had the same training, and the only difference between surgeons is price? NO!

Did you know there are some physicians representing themselves as plastic surgeons who have never had any formal training in the specialty of plastic surgery? Or that there are physicians calling themselves "plastic surgeons" who will tell you they are "Board Certified" but fail to include the fact that their certification isn't actually in plastic surgery but in some other field? California requires the term "certification" only be used in the same specialty the physician is certified in. This is not required in Nevada!

Do you want a dentist operating on your eyes?

If you needed open-heart surgery or brain surgery, would you look for a "discount" heart surgeon or neurosurgeon or would you look for the most highly trained specialist you could find? Why would you treat any other part of your body differently? Surgery is surgery, cosmetic or otherwise. If the surgery is "discounted," you need to ask yourself, "Why is it discounted?" Quality surgery is usually not "discounted" or "on sale."

Okay, so where do you start? First, check and see if the doctor is Certified or Board Certified by the **American Board of Plastic Surgery (ABPS)**. **This is the only cosmetic surgery specialty board formally recognized by the American Medical Association (AMA)**. In order to be certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery the physician must have obtained his or



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Dr. Bongiovi is certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He is also an active member in the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS) and the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons (ASPRS) in addition to numerous other medical organizations and societies. He has held the positions of Chief of Staff at Desert Springs and Valley Hospitals, Chief of Surgery at Desert Springs Hospital, Vice-Chairman of Plastic Surgery at Sunrise Hospital and Chief of Department of Plastic Surgery at Women's Hospital and Desert Springs Hospital. He is currently Chief of the Department of Plastic Surgery at Desert Springs Hospital.

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EXAMPLES OF SURGERY PERFORMED BY INADEQUATELY TRAINED PHYSICIANS

- A. Results of Lower Lid Blepharoplasty
- B. Face Lift Scars
- C. Abdominoplasty Results



her Medical Degree (M.D.) from an accredited medical school and completed **an additional five to seven years of**

training specifically in surgery and plastic surgery through an accredited residency program. In addition, the physician must pass extensive oral and written examinations given by the Board. You can check to see if a physician is board certified by visiting www.abms.org and clicking on the 'Who's Certified' button or by calling the American Board of Plastic Surgery in Pennsylvania at (215) 587-9322.

Secondly, when you obtain a listing of surgeons certified by the **American Board of Plastic Surgery**, set up appointments to go and see at least two to three of the doctors. Make up a list of questions you would like to ask the doctor and bring it with you. How does the doctor propose to perform your surgery and why? Ask to see before and after pictures of the doctor's patients. You will also receive pricing on your surgery at the visit. Be sure to ask what is included in the pricing. Where will your surgery be performed? Will you have general or local anesthesia? Will anesthesia be administered by a board certified anesthesiologist? Will the surgery be performed in a safe, approved surgical facility?

Following this advice is not a 100% guarantee but it will greatly increase your chances of having surgery you will be happy with for years to come!