

I underwent abdominal liposuction and chose an inexpensive surgeon. Post-procedure, I have a lot of lumps and pigmentation. Can the problem be solved?

Rajshri Menon, Kuwait

It is sad how often I've heard this story. A choice made only on the basis of cost is the most common cause of dissatisfaction post-surgery, according to studies done in the US. Lumps, bumps and pigmentation are possible, and are known complications associated with liposuction. Usually, these can be fixed by an expert using corrective liposuction. Occasionally, an additional procedure, like fat grafting may be required to address the depressions. I suggest you go and meet the doctor who operated on you; he will surely have a treatment plan for this concern. You can also come and meet me or contact me via e-mail.

DR MOHAN THOMAS, MD (USA), FACS (USA), leading cosmetic surgeon, visiting scholar Mt Sinai Hospital (New York) and consultant, Breach Candy Hospital, The Cosmetic Surgery Institute, Mumbai, answers your queries related to cosmetic surgery. Send in your queries to femina@wmm.co.in



I am interested in tear trough implants to correct my dark, hollow under-eye area. How much is the cost on average? I am based in the UK and am looking to book my holiday to India soon.

Kency Britto, London

Dark circles are caused due to depressions in the lower lid along with very thin skin. Tear trough implants address only one concern; there may be uneven fat deposits present that may need to be addressed as well. The selection of a facial implant is very critical and solely dependant on the clinical presentation. There is no universal implant to address your problem. In the absence of photographs (I suggest you send a few from the frontal and side views), I would be hard-pressed to suggest one implant over the other. It is a very good option but would need a combination of procedures and will require you to be in Mumbai for about a week.

I underwent breast reduction surgery by a young surgeon. I regret my decision now, as I am left with no nipple sensation in either breast and have also lost the pigmented skin around them. What should I do?

Jyoti Patankar, Bhilai

It takes a good number of years in practice before a surgeon is experienced, and knows who not to operate upon. Although loss of nipple sensation and part of the areola (the skin around the nipple that you refer to) can occur with a large breast reduction, it is uncommon. You did not mention when the surgery was performed. Assuming you have waited at least six to seven months after surgery, please allow the surgeon to reassess and fix the problem if you are comfortable. Or else, you may consult another surgeon. There are ways to address the loss of pigmented skin, but improvement of sensation will happen over time and there is no surgery to improve it.

I'm looking into hair transplantation, mostly in the front, temple and hairline areas. Can you please inform me on the costs involved in this procedure?

Pravin P, Chennai

Hair transplantation is a very predictable procedure with satisfying results. The areas that you have indicated, namely the front, temple and hairline, are areas where medical treatment may be ineffective and therefore a surgical option is appropriate. Nevertheless, baseline investigations to assess the testosterone, thyroid function test, ferritin levels and DHT level are indicated. Androgenic alopecia or male pattern baldness will be assessed by these tests and is essential to sustain and maintain the new hair pattern. Hair transplantation is affordable for most people and the cost can be communicated to you after a consultation. The downtime for these procedures is minimal. ●

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