

Bandhan. For good measure, Payal is also now having her lips plumped.

New trend

Favourite procedures are usually non surgical given the short period of time involved. Dr Mohan Thomas, senior consultant cosmetic surgeon at Breach Candy Hospital who has had three patients this year, said, "Dermal fillers, Botox, these are popular given that there's very little down time. However I did have one girl who was 24 with a weak chin who came in around 20 days ago for a chin implant that was entirely funded by her brother. The general amount that brothers seem to willing to spend is up to Rs 25,000. After all, with people who are fairly well off, how many watches or scarves could you gift your sister? The gift of good looks holds particularly significant value."

Breast implants too!

Apart from the usual cash and chocolates, new entries in the Rakhi gifts circuit are non-surgical cosmetic procedures, and surgical cosmetic treatments like breast, lip and butt correction and even hymenorrhaphy or hymen reconstruction surgery (virginity restoration procedure) to their sisters. So everything from liposuction, tummy tuck, butt augmentation, lip works, implants and reduction are on the gift platter this season.

Gireesh Pandia (name changed), an advertising professional, recently paid for one of his cousin's hymen reconstruction surgery, "She was dating a guy for close to two years but they broke up. A month back when she was engaged to another guy, I could sense that something was troubling her so with the help of her friend I convinced her to undergo the surgery and believe me the smile has come back on her lips."

"While two patients were accompanied by their mothers, one came with her dad and the rest with their brothers. I

see it as a sign of siblings opening up to each other about their sexual lives, which is very important. Men can walk out of a relationship without any 'sign' of lost virginity, which is not the case with women. Now I don't need to tell you, how a 'non virgin' is looked at. If a sister can confide in her brother for anything and everything under the sun, that's the best thing that can happen to a family. Moral policing should stay out of it because it's something beyond their understanding. Family values should help, not suffocate," said Dr Mohan Thomas, senior cosmetic surgeon, Breach Candy Hospital.