

Can computer imaging show me how I will look if I undergo face sculpting? Can I go for it? I'm planning to get married mid-2012.

Shradha Pandit, Raipur

The use of computer imaging is based on morphing in a static state. Unfortunately, we don't view ourselves in the static state but as expressing feelings like happiness and anger. The use of computer imaging is like dangling a carrot in front of a rabbit. The face, as shown through computer imaging, may not be replicated, leading to misunderstandings and unhappiness. In answer to your question regarding facial sculpting, the options you have are several and may involve high-definition facial liposuction, injection lipolysis, dermal fillers and/or BTX A (Botulinum toxin A). There is not much downtime involved in any of these, and if you do wish to go for them, then there is plenty of time for recovery before your marriage.

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@www.co.in



My mother is 45 years old and has a severe obesity problem. Her weight is 130 kg, has trouble walking and has borderline diabetes. Please help me with all weightloss options available for her.

Meenal Pandya, Cuttack

Obesity is one of the biggest problems in health-care and will continue to be so if dramatic lifestyle and diet changes are not made. Diabetes and hypertension are obesity-related issues and India is predicted to be the capital of both these diseases by 2015. Obesity could be a genetic trait, further fuelled by hormonal problems and a sedentary lifestyle. You haven't mentioned your mother's height. In spite of this, my guess is that her BMI is well over 35. This puts her in a category where bariatric surgery may be the answer, particularly due to her borderline diabetes. The age bracket she is in would put her either in a premenopausal or menopausal state. This means that her metabolism will slow down further, compounding the problem. I suggest a full hormonal check-up for her prior to a surgical consultation.

I am 25 years old, and I would like to know if facial contouring can alter a feminine face to a masculine one. I also want to know if it is possible to transform the shape of the face, so that it is completely different from the face

before surgery. Can changing a simple feature, such as the structure of the eye socket, the cheeks or the jawline transform my face?

Bhagyashree Patil, Nagpur

Being a responsible surgeon, I need to know the reason for any correction that you wish to undergo. I would like to see you in person or see photographs of your face in frontal, both profiles and oblique views. Some of the questions you have are so complex that answering them is beyond the scope of this column. In addition to medical tests and a clinical examination, you will need to have a psychological profiling done before you go in for any surgery. To satisfy your curiosity, it would suffice to say that various parts of the face like the contour, proportions and form can be altered.

I would like to know about the lipo procedure, the amount of weight I can expect to lose through it and its cost, as I want to undergo the treatment.

Rachel John, Kottayam

There are many non-surgical weight-loss devices available, like lipo, Cryo lipo, U Lipo (registered trademarks of the manufacturers) that make promises that may not be met. The energies used in these procedures to target the fat cells could be ultrasound energy, low-level laser or very low temperatures (cryo) all of which claim to have results comparable to surgical results. The fact of the matter is that there is minimal to no weight loss seen with these procedures. This may not be acceptable to most individuals who have spent a large amount of money to see visible results. You should first meet the physician in person and discuss the implications and results that can be achieved with the procedure. ●