

THE WEEK SMART *life*

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VENUS REDESIGNED

Cosmetic procedures to improve the genitalia are catching on

BY SHARMISTA CHAUDHURY

➔ **A NIP HERE, A TUCK THERE, VOILA!** You feel better and look better. Plastic surgery has so far aided women in getting that aquiline nose, a pout akin to Angelina Jolie's or just a perfect 10 figure. Now perfection has gone beyond the face, breasts and a bulging tummy. As women in India become more aware and comfortable with their sexuality, they have also become increasingly conscious of their likes and dislikes.

It has taken many forms of art to make women accept their vagina. Now, they want to get comfortable with it. Plastic surgeons, however, are seeing a growth in interest for such procedures such as hymenoplasty.

Dr Lakhyajit Dhani of Vasudhan Arjin Cosmetic and Laser Surgery in Mumbai also attributes this to a more experimental approach to sex among Indian women. "There has been a rise in the incidence of oral sex, and since in this position the vagina is in sight, women like to go in for rejuvenation procedures," says Dhani. While the Kegel manoeuvre has always been associated with tightening of the vagina, doctors believe women need a lot more. Says Dr Mohan Thomas, senior consultant, Breach Candy Hospital: "Once a woman has given birth, doing the Kegel is like putting a band aid on a gash." Dr Varun Dixit, a cosmetic and plastic surgeon at Breach Candy Hospital, says: "The most popular procedure opted would be hymenoplasty followed by vaginoplasty and then labiaplasty."