



nose

nasal surgery explained

Sydney ENT and facial plastic surgeon **Dr William Mooney** explains the rhinoplasty procedure. Francis Herron reports.

The nose is the focal point of the face, so although most people say the first thing they notice about someone is their eyes, the truth is our eyes are naturally drawn to focal points – which means one of the first things anyone looks at is the nose, according to Sydney plastic and ear, nose and throat surgeon Dr William Mooney.

Rhinoplasty procedures were among the first cosmetic procedures ever performed, for reasons ranging from a need for reconstructive work to a socially driven desire to alter the ethnic appearance of the face to avoid persecution.

Rhinoplasty has evolved to become one of the most common procedures performed today. Dr Mooney says that, in his experience, male and female patients have similar concerns when considering whether or not to undergo surgery on the nose.

'Most patients seeking rhinoplasty have a combination of cosmetic and functional concerns. The nose is not only the aesthetic centre of the face but also has several important functions such as smell, sinus function and breathing,' Dr Mooney says.

'The majority of patients with perceived cosmetic problems also have a degree of functional impairment they would like to improve. At the time of consultation, both the aesthetic quality of the nose is assessed, along with the flow of breath and function of the sinuses. While patients often assess themselves aesthetically several times a day, respiration is taking place all day, every day,' he explains.

'Patients are usually overjoyed that the function of the nose can be improved at the same time as its appearance.'

When it comes to choosing the most suitable nose for a patient, Dr Mooney says that the planning process is of vital importance.

'Factors that need to be taken into consideration are the age and gender of the patient, their ethnicity and even occupation and personality. All components play a role in selecting the shape and size of the new nose so that it is in harmony with the other facial features,' Dr Mooney says.

'There is no specific "right" nose, but rather a right nose that's specific for each patient. Computer imaging assists in projecting the final outcome,' he says.

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In terms of the actual surgery, Dr Mooney says patients are naturally apprehensive, which means he pays special attention to the need to alleviate their anxiety in the lead-up to the procedure.



BEFORE



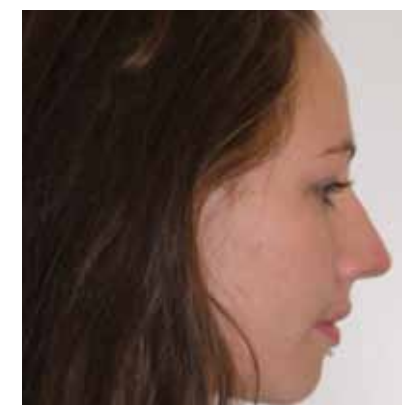
AFTER rhinoplasty by Dr Mooney



BEFORE



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'Rhinoplasty is performed under a general anaesthetic and takes around two hours. When patients wake up, they are often surprised that pain isn't a big feature but, in spite of pre-operative techniques to reduce bruising, they may still have black eyes.'

Patients spend one night in hospital and can usually go home the next day. The plaster is removed after seven days and the patient can normally return to work after 10 to 14 days.

'After two weeks, patients will usually look completely normal but the final result can take a few months,' Dr Mooney says, explaining that minor residual swelling can take some time to resolve. **acsm**