

Talking Shape

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Doc Talk: Facial Transplantation

Have we reached the end of the road for vanity? Hardly. Morally the answer may be yes, but technologically, no. Transplantation of tissue is nothing new to the field of medicine. In fact, organ transplantation is routine nowadays and part of the standard of care for certain disease processes. Our skin happens to be our largest organ and add to that the face, our most prominent human feature and you get an intriguing and controversial procedure.

A French surgical team generated worldwide news by performing the first partial face transplant on November 27, 2005. The biggest issues are transplant rejection, taking of life long immunosuppressive medication, and psychological concerns associated with such a dramatic and life changing surgery. Balancing ethics and science is at times difficult. The medical aspects of the procedure have been possible for years with a technique called microsurgery. Re-planting of faces and limbs injured by accidents is not uncommon to microsurgeons. However, the emotional and ethical aspects have kept transplantation away until recently. It is difficult to ensure that the patient can handle such a transformation and that the family remains supportive.

It really comes down to weighing the risks against the benefits. The question of vanity should have no role in this complex procedure. Facial transplantation should only be available for patients with severe facial deformities that can not be treated with traditional reconstructive methods. Furthermore, appropriate patient selection criteria should be used on a case-by-case basis. Who knows, maybe someday this will be as routine as a tummy tuck and my wife will schedule me for an emergency face transplant. For now, as with much other

amazing technology, face transplantation should be reserved for only the patients in the most serious of needs.



Dr. Ghaderi, Y-ME Race 2006

Contour Comments



Our team raised over

\$9600

for the
2006 Y-Me Race!
(See page 3 for more.)

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body-contouring procedures: liposuction

Liposuction has consistently been the most popular plastic surgery procedure with more than 323,600 procedures performed in 2005. According to a study in *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*, the official medical journal of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, 80 percent of patients were satisfied with their results and 86 percent would recommend the procedure to family and friends.

If you are bothered by excess fat deposits, located anywhere on your face or body, that do not respond to diet and exercise, liposuction may be right for you. Despite good health and reasonable fitness, some men and women may still have a body with disproportionate contours due to localized excess fat deposits. These areas may be due to family traits rather than a lack of weight control. In general, liposuction reshapes specific areas of the body by removing localized excess fatty deposits, improving body contours and proportion. Ultimately, it can enhance your self-image.

Liposuction can be performed alone or in combination with other plastic surgery procedures such as a tummy tuck. Liposuction is not a treatment for obesity or a substitute for proper diet and exercise. It is also not an effective treatment for cellulite. Liposuction can, however, permanently reshape body contours to provide you with a more balanced figure.

Good candidates are healthy individuals with firm, elastic skin and good muscle tone with a positive outlook and specific goals in mind for body contouring. Characteristics that can be addressed with liposuction include a double chin, fatty upper arms, enlarged male or female breasts, love handles and excess fat in the abdomen as well as hips and thighs. Remember to look for improvement rather than perfection. Maintaining your weight after the surgery will ensure that your results will be permanent.

A consultation with a board certified plastic surgeon is your first step to educate yourself about liposuction and whether or not you are a good candidate.

- *Five Essential Steps Before Surgery* -

1. **Do your homework:** Research the procedure, the benefits and the risks. Refer to www.plasticsurgery.org for the latest information on plastic surgery procedures.
2. **Have Realistic Expectations:** Ask your plastic surgeon about the benefits and risks of your surgery; discuss your expectations and understand side effects and recovery time.
3. **Be Informed:** Talk to patients who have had your procedure so you know what to expect.
4. **Ask Tough Questions:** Consult your plastic surgeon and discuss your full medical history to determine the most appropriate treatment.
5. **Choose an ASPS Member Surgeon:** Why? ASPS Member Surgeons are qualified, trained and properly certified. They adhere to a strict code of ethics, receive continuous education and operate only in accredited facilities. An ASPS Member Surgeon is your partner in cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery.

Meet the Staff:

Casper, the Friendly Fish



As the newest member to the St. Charles Plastic Surgery team, Casper has taken a passive role in the consultation process. With a keen eye for form (not to mention shiny objects) and a desire to swim "outside the box", Casper has provided solid support since June. Having witnessed a trauma situation to his close friend, Star Fish, Casper is well aware of the positive improvement reconstructive surgery can make a in one's life. Casper has never openly admitted to having any cosmetic enhancement procedure, but close associates have hinted that Casper was not born with those full luscious lips. You be the judge.

Thank you to everyone who participated!

2006 Y-ME RACE Against Breast Cancer Review



It is difficult to describe the feeling of stepping across the finish line knowing that you are among 30,000 participants that have gathered at Grant Park in hopes of making a difference in the fight against breast cancer. The Y-ME Race Against Breast Cancer is the largest cause related event in Chicago and is held every year on Mother's Day. Team St. Charles Plastic Surgery, boasting 41 members committed to the cause, set a new team goal, having raised over \$9600. This year, the theme for our team was iRace. The iTunes selected included such encouraging songs as *I Run For Life*, *I Will Survive* and *Lean On Me*. Our team t-shirt, designed by Caleigh Ryan of the Longfellow Elementary 5th grade art class, provided a "picture perfect" match to our chosen theme. Team members collecting over \$100 were entered into a drawing provided by Dr. Ghaderi. Congratulations to our winner, Carole Curatti, who received an iPod Shuffle containing our Race Day Playlist. We hope to see you on team St. Charles Plastic Surgery in 2007!



We would love to have you on our team next year!

In Our Community:

Dr. Ghaderi provided an informational Breast Reconstruction lecture at The LivingWell Cancer Resource Center, located in Geneva, IL. We appreciate the opportunity to join their efforts in providing cancer related support to our community.



moving on

Wishing the very best of luck...
...to Jessica Gilbert who is moving to Texas to begin yet another chapter of her life. Having started with St. Charles Plastic Surgery in August of 2002 as our Reimbursement Specialist, Jessica has become an integral part of our team. She has not only supported the office with her extensive knowledge of reimbursement, but her creativity and computer savvy has helped bring St. Charles Plastic Surgery to where we are today. Those patients who have had the good fortune to have had contact with her know that her moving will be a significant loss for our practice. We wish her the best of luck in her new endeavors..... and on a personal note, my friend, you will be very much missed.

- Dale



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