

Frequently Asked Questions

Facelift FAQs

Q: What is a facelift?

A: A facelift, technically known as rhytidectomy, is a surgical procedure which involves the removal of sagging skin and excess fat, as well as the tightening of neck muscles, in order to improve the most visible signs of age which may occur in the lower two-thirds of the face.

Q: Who is a good candidate for a facelift?

A: Good candidates for facelifts include physically healthy men and women who are realistic in their expectations and interested in reducing the appearance of sagging face and neck skin. Patients with well-defined bone structure and skin which still retains some elasticity often receive the best results.

Q: For more information about facelift Chicago, click here.

A: Is there anything that a facelift cannot fix?

A traditional facelift treats the lower two-thirds of the face, including the cheeks, jowls and neck. It will not improve areas of the upper face such as the brow or eye area, which are better treated with a browlift, or wrinkles around the mouth.

Q: Are there any age restrictions to who can undergo a facelift?

A: Though the majority of patients are in their forties to sixties, a facelift can be performed at any age.

Q: Where does the facelift procedure take place?

A: Facelifts may be performed in a surgeon's office-based facility, in an outpatient surgical center or in a hospital.

Q: What type of anesthesia is used during facelift surgery?

A: Local anesthesia combined with sedation is commonly used during facelift surgery, though general anesthesia can be used instead.

Q: How long does the facelift procedure take?

A: Facelifts generally require several hours to complete, though more extensive procedures may take longer and may even require multiple sessions.

Q: Are there scars after a facelift?

A: The incisions for a facelift tend to be hidden behind the ears and in the natural creases of the skin, often healing as thin thread-like lines that are well camouflaged.

Q: Is the procedure painful?

A: Though most patients only experience mild pain or discomfort, pain medication will be prescribed to help control any discomfort that you do experience.

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Q: What is the recovery like after a facelift?

A: After surgery, the face is likely to appear bruised, pale and swollen and some numbness can occur. It's best for patients to take it easy during the first week and to keep the head elevated during the first few days to help control swelling. Some bruising can take two to three weeks to fully fade.

Q: Are there any bandages used after surgery?

A: Bandages may be applied to the head and neck and are typically removed the day after surgery. Another light bandage may be used for a longer period of time.

Q: Will I need to take time off of work after a facelift?

A: Patients will need to take time off of work after their facelift and can typically return within about two weeks.

Q: When can I exercise after a facelift?

A: Strenuous activities and exercise should be avoided for the first two weeks.

Q: When are the stitches removed after a facelift?

A: Stitches are usually removed about seven days after facelift surgery.

Q: Are facelift procedures ever covered by insurance?

A: Facelifts are generally considered a cosmetic procedure and thus not covered by insurance.

Q: Is financing available for a facelift procedure?

A: Financing is available for many plastic surgery procedures. You can get more information from your plastic surgeon.