

# Are you happy with your body?

## Discussion

You bump into a woman friend in town. You knew she was thinking of having breast implants and you can see that she has obviously had the operation. What do you say to her?

- Nothing. It's too embarrassing.
- "Wow. Those look great! How much did they cost?"
- "Wow. I'm surprised you can stand up straight!"
- Something else.

Is plastic surgery popular in your country? Is it expensive?

Do you think people who have plastic surgery are too concerned about their looks?

## Reading

Read through the article and answer this question:

*Is there a similar trend in your country?*

### YOUNGER PLASTIC SURGERY PATIENTS

Surgeons at clinics specialising in plastic surgery are reporting increasingly younger patients, according to a report released recently by the National Association of Plastic Surgery in the United States.

"They want to look like the people they see in films or the models they see in magazines. It's becoming an obsession," said one doctor in a beauty clinic in California. "Last week we had a woman in here who, at 30, said she was looking too old and wanted a facelift. I told her to come back and see me in 15 years."

The average age for patients undergoing plastic surgery over the last year was 32, down from 34 just the year before. In England recently, a 15-year-old girl was in the news for announcing that her parents were going to pay for breast enlargements as her 16th birthday present.

Her mother said, "If it makes her happy and gives her more chance of success in life, then what is the problem?" Though women still dominate the plastic surgery scene, men are growing increasingly concerned with their physical appearance and are doing something about it. According to the report, men now make up 39% of all surgeries performed — that's an increase of nearly 20% from last year.

One man, who wished to remain anonymous, said he got his liposuction — removal of excess fat — after pressure from his wife. "She's a very athletic woman and, well, I enjoy a good steak." Liposuction tops the list of plastic surgery performed on men, followed by hair implants and breast reduction. For women the top order is still breast enlargement, followed by liposuction and facelifts.

Read through the article again and answer these questions:

- Why are younger people turning to plastic surgery?
- Why did the doctor refuse plastic surgery to one patient?
- Why is plastic surgery now more popular with men?
- Why did the man have liposuction?

## Discussion

Do you think the number of men who want plastic surgery will eventually equal, or even surpass, the number of women?

Read again what the mother of the 15-year-old girl said. Do you agree with her?