

Language

Match these types of plastic surgery solutions to the problems below:

breast enlargement
hair implant

rhinoplasty (nose job)
varicose vein removal

facelift
tummy tuck

1. "This thing on my face is an atrocity. I'm surprised birds don't sit on it or that lightning doesn't strike it in thunderstorms."
2. "I hate them. I can't wear shorts or a bikini because they stick out, especially on the back of my thighs. They're the ugliest things I've ever seen and they're getting worse every year because I have bad circulation."
3. "I started receding really badly at the age of 23. My wife says she doesn't mind, but I hate it. I mean, I'm not completely bald or anything, but I constantly wear hats and baseball caps because I'm so self-conscious about it. I could never wear a wig."
4. "I hate being flat-chested. The boys at school used to call me 'ironing-board'. Imagine! I think I have a pretty face but I don't feel confident about myself from the chin down. I would like to feel good about wearing a tight sweater or a low-cut dress."
5. "I used to have such a youthful, vibrant-looking face. Now my skin just sags. I think I look twice my age."
6. "No matter what I do, my belly sticks out. I think it has something to do with my posture. If I could just get a flat stomach, I wouldn't feel so bad about looking at myself sideways in the mirror."

Which of the above treatments are most popular in your country? Are there any other ones that were not mentioned?

If you had the problems above and plenty of money, would you have the surgery? Tell your partner what you would do for each problem.

Discussion

In a survey of 37,500 girls aged 12 to 15, more than half listed appearance as their biggest worry.

What do you think is the reason for this? Is it a worrying statistic?

Are you happy with your size and weight? Is there a part of your body that you would like to change (i.e. make smaller, make bigger)?

Here is an alternative point of view from a culture where people take a different view of size:

"I must eat so I'll be fat and people won't laugh at my figure," explains one of the women in a fattening room in Calabar, Southern Nigeria. "Nobody will marry me if I don't get fatter." Women come from all over Nigeria to put on extra pounds at these fattening rooms. "We can make any woman obese," boasts the owner. "They will get a husband after their stay here, no problem." The women eat all day and avoid moving so they don't burn off any calories. "It's a bit tiring eating all the time, but I know when I come out I will be attractive, healthy and beautiful," said the woman we spoke to.

Do you think it will be fashionable to be fat one day?