

## How To Choose a Plastic Surgeon

In most states, a doctor licensed to practice medicine may practice in any specialty, with no requirement for education, training, certification, or experience in that specialty.

### Did You Know?

A doctor with training in dermatology may perform heart surgery, a doctor with training in gynecology may practice psychiatry, and any doctor, from a brain surgeon to a foot surgeon, may perform plastic surgery. And, the unfortunate fact is that many do. What is worse the public for the most part has no idea what the background of the physician is who is performing their procedure.

In order to ensure that the public receives the best health care possible from the most qualified doctors, the medical profession has organized itself by specialty to set standards of education, training, and experience that are appropriate to each specialty. This has been done through the creation of Boards of Medical Specialties, including Body Plastic Surgery and Facial Plastic Surgery.

- Plastic surgeons that perform cosmetic procedures of the body and breasts should be certified by the **American Board of Plastic Surgery**.
- Plastic surgeons who perform cosmetic procedures on the face and neck including injectibles and laser treatments should be certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology and subsequently by the **American Board of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery**.

There are a number of other non-recognized "boards" that certify doctors in cosmetic surgery. These organizations do not require a doctor to meet the stringent criteria established by the above two boards. Furthermore, these doctors can only refer to themselves as cosmetic surgeons not plastic or facial plastic surgeons. Oftentimes emergency room doctors, dermatologists, gynecologists, cosmetic dentist, lasik surgeons, general surgeons and other surgeons take "weekend courses" to receive a certificate in cosmetic surgery.

Rest assured, the surgeons at **Premier Image Cosmetic & Laser Surgery** are all double and triple board certified in their respective specialty fields.