

Epidemic of “Non-Plastic Surgery” trained people doing Plastic Surgery

Most people wouldn't buy a car or even a refrigerator without making sure its credentials and the company's physical plant are in good working order. But a lot of people trust their faces and bodies to doctors without investigating their credentials.

“There is an epidemic of non-plastic surgery trained people doing plastic surgery. It's a real problem and there's no one really regulating it”, said Dr. William Silver who is triple board certified by the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the American Board of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery and by the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery . “I hold monthly seminars here at Premier Image Cosmetic & Laser Surgery just to educate the public in the bewildering and somewhat confusing number of face-lifting procedures and body contouring procedures. We discuss what requirements they should expect from the plastic surgeon, the facility, and the doctors of anesthesia.” Silver added.

“The problem is a growing concern because the interest in plastic surgery is growing”, adds Dr. Louis DeJoseph. DeJoseph also double board certified by the American Board of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery and the American Board of Otolaryngology. DeJoseph is co-developer with Dr. Silver of the “QT Mini Facelift” recently seen on Fox 5 and 11 Alive News stations. The “QT Mini Facelift” developed at Premier Image Cosmetic & Laser Surgery is a scaled down version of a traditional full facelift designed for patients on the go. The “QT Mini Facelift” requires only local anesthesia and little down time, as a matter of fact most return to their busy lives within just a couple of days.

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons recently completed a new survey. The survey revealed that 70 percent of people considering plastic surgery have a yearly income of below \$60,000. “Our clients are no longer just the rich and famous”, says Dr. Michael Tolson, Board Certified Cosmetic surgeon at Premier Image Cosmetic & Laser Surgery specializing in body plastic surgery and sculpting. “Many of these people don't know how or why they should check doctor's qualifications.” Tolson adds. “They just expect that if the doctor advertises his services in plastic procedures, they must be qualified. Unfortunately, that's just not the case.”

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. “Most patients do not know what questions to ask in order to qualify the doctor and facility. Dr. DeJoseph states, “For example, 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.

Any doctor, regardless of their specialty can perform the “Contour Threadlift” after a weekend course. Your dermatologist has an MD and therefore can perform liposuction after a weekend course. Dr. Silver throws his hands up, “It's confusing for the public and unfortunately they do not know what to require from their surgeon or even what procedure is proven safe and effective.”

“A lot of times, patients are taken in by fancy advertisement, promising lunch time lifts, inexpensive or discounted procedures, a fancy web site, and they don't stop to ask, is the doctor board certified in facial plastic surgery?” says Dr. Silver. “It just amazes me how little information is provided to the public on extremely critical information needed to make an educated decision with something so life changing.”

“Even more amazing”, adds Dr Silver, “is when a patient goes in to get plastic surgery and doesn't even get a surgeon.” Silver recalled. “I recently met a lovely young woman at one of our Seminars who asked if I could help her with scar revision and asymmetrical problems from her “Lifestyle Lift”. As we discussed her experience, I was amazed to find out she had never even met the doctor prior to her surgery. In addition, she had not a clue of his certifications or experience, or the facility credentials, and was never informed of the type of medications or anesthesia her surgeon would use. She did recall being rushed through signing oodles of paperwork without explanation.”

Here are a few questions people should be prepared to ask when making the initial phone call and during the consultation:

- 1) If inquiring for facial plastic procedures, is the doctor board certified by the American Board of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery.
- 2) If inquiring for body plastic procedures, is the doctor board certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery..
- 3) How many times has the surgeon performed the procedure they are interested in?
- 4) How long has the doctor been practicing plastic surgery?
- 5) Does the doctor have privileges at several local hospitals?
- 6) Does the doctor perform the procedures in a fully accredited surgery center or hospital?
- 7) Does the doctor use only doctors of anesthesiology and do they stay with you during your procedure?
- 8) How safe and effective is the procedure you are inquiring about and is there a better alternative?
- 9) If implants or injectables are used, are they FDA approved, have there been any adverse effects, and how long have they been used by the public.

“From Botox to Plastic Surgery, the need to use a board certified facial plastic surgeon is essential for safety and optimal results.” Dr. DeJoseph concludes. “I’m not selling cars. I’m providing excellence in facial rejuvenation. As a facial plastic & reconstructive surgeon my patient’s safety and well-being are my top priority.”

“If you are going to be a partner in your own care, you have to feel comfortable with the doctor and his staff. Credentialing is important, but caring attitudes should be on your check list too”, adds Silver. “It is important to feel comfortable with the surgeon as this allows the patient to ask questions that they may otherwise feel are embarrassing.”

Premier Image Cosmetic & Laser Surgery has become one of the nation's fastest-growing cosmetic medical centers in the areas of facial and body plastic & reconstructive surgery, including revision rhinoplasty, head & neck cancer reconstructive surgery and body plastic surgery. On campus is Premier’s Anti-Aging Medical Spa for the ultimate in pharmaceutical-grade skin care products and services, including laser treatments for facial rejuvenation, skin resurfacing, and laser tattoo, vein & hair removal. In addition, patients have the convenience of one of Atlanta’s highly recognized out-patient surgery center with state and federal licensing and the prestigious AAA accreditation.

Among the Center's patients are local dignitaries, business leaders and radio, music and film entertainers, as well as local children and adults in need of the center's expertise. They enjoy the convenience of the center providing related cosmetic services in a setting that provides a comfortable, home-like environment and luxurious accommodations. Patients can relax and feel at ease while receiving the care of Dr. Silver’s team of experts with board certified anesthesiologist, physicians and surgeons, and a medical staff chosen for their exceptional credentials and caring attitudes.