

The Definitive
Guide to

The Cost of Plastic Surgery



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Introduction: Plastic Surgery on the Rise

Americans spent more than [\\$16.5 billion on cosmetic procedures in 2018](#) alone, and that number continues to grow each year. This data is not surprising given our society's growing desire to minimize signs of aging or to change aspects of our appearance that bother us. Plastic surgery has been on the rise in the U.S. during the past five years, and an increasing number of people—including [an increasing number of male patients](#)—are exploring different face and body procedures to make aesthetic enhancements and boost self-confidence.

For those considering cosmetic surgery, there are many important decisions to make and considerations to keep in mind—and, of course, cost is one of them. It goes without saying that cost is a major factor in determining whether or not someone moves forward with plastic surgery, and if you're considering having a procedure done, you no doubt have questions about the quotes you receive.

In this guide, we break down the average costs of various cosmetic procedures, the steps involved in obtaining and understanding a quote for surgery, and red flags to look out for during the process.



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The Average Cost of Cosmetic Procedures

Although costs per procedure do vary based on location, experience, and other factors we'll discuss later in this guide, these estimates will give you a general idea of the cost of each treatment. Keep in mind these ranges represent the average cost of surgeon fees, the surgical center, and anesthesia, and may not include other variables that factor into your total cost.

Procedure	Cost
Dermabrasion	\$1-3K
Instant liquid rhinoplasty	\$1-3K
Lip lift	\$3-6K
Cheek implant	\$4-6K
Chin augmentation	\$4-6K
C-Lift liquid facelift	\$5-7K
Breast implant removal	\$5-9K
Brow lift	\$5-9K
Full face laser skin resurfacing	\$5-9K
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Liposuction	\$6K and up
Ear surgery (otoplasty)	\$6-9K
Eyelid surgery	\$6-9K
Neck lift	\$6-10K
Breast augmentation	\$7-15K
Nose reshaping (rhinoplasty)	\$8-14K
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Upper arm lift	\$9-15K
Breast lift	\$9-16K
Breast implant exchange	\$9-18K
Breast reduction	\$9-18K
Thigh lift	\$9-18K
Tummy tuck	\$9-18K
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Facelift	\$11-15K
Lower body lift	\$15-25K

* Price varies by surgeon's approach or method
 Visit www.drklevens.com to learn more about procedures.



Keep in mind that these ranges represent the average cost of surgeon fees, the surgical center, and anesthesia.



Breaking Down Your Plastic Surgery Quotes

When researching and consulting with different plastic surgeons, sometimes it's challenging to break down the quotes they provide and all the different costs that go into them. Plastic surgery quotes typically include the following details:



Consultation fee: Some surgeons charge a fee for the consultation appointment, and others offer a complimentary consultation. This cost covers a one-on-one consultation with the surgeon so you can discuss your goals and learn more about your treatment options in a comfortable, private setting. In many cases, the consultation fee can be applied toward the surgery once it's scheduled. You should expect to meet with the surgeon himself or herself—not just a coordinator or salesperson.



Surgeon's fee: Each quote includes a surgeon's fee to compensate the plastic surgeon for their time and expertise. Some surgeons include the cost of pre-operative and follow-up appointments in their surgical fee, while others may bill separately for office visits following a cosmetic procedure.



Anesthesiologist's fee: The anesthesiologist is compensated for administering and monitoring general anesthesia, which is a combination of medications that puts patients in a sleep-like state for a surgical procedure. Some plastic surgeons work with physician anesthesiologists, while others work with a nurse anesthetist.



Operating room: Different types of surgical centers have different plastic surgery pricing. Your quote should indicate whether the procedure is office-based or will be performed in an ambulatory surgical center.



Laser fees: If the procedure involves use of a laser, associated fees for the laser may be included in the plastic surgery quote. The quality of lasers varies and may impact the type and duration of the cosmetic result achieved.



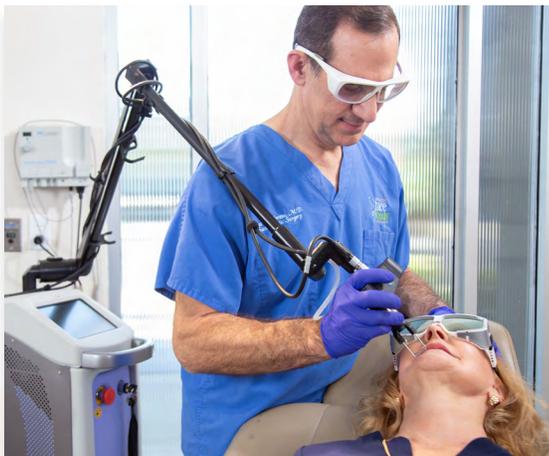
Financing fees: Patients paying for plastic surgery with CareCredit, a credit card, or a similar healthcare financing option should not see finance fees on the quote. It is unusual for any finance costs to be passed on to the patient based on your preferred payment method.



Supplies: There may be a range of supply costs, from medications and implants to post-surgical garments. These will vary depending on the procedure that's performed and the supplies used. Our specialists frequently use [Exparel](#), a local analgesic administered at the time of surgery to control pain, as well as [Tranexamic Acid \(TXA\)](#) to reduce unwanted surgical bleeding during procedures.

Note that some supplies may be provided by your surgeon, and others may be at your own expense. For example, the cost of an elastic bandage would probably be covered by your surgeon, but a post-surgical garment would likely not be included in your plastic surgery quote.

Depending on your procedure, there may be additional fees that impact your quote such as specialized nursing fees to help with pre- or post-op care as well as lab work fees for an EKG or blood testing.



If the procedure being done involves use of a laser, associated fees for the laser may be included in the plastic surgery quote.

Look Out For These Red Flags

When you're reviewing quotes from plastic surgeons, there are certain red flags to look out for to avoid any hidden or surprise costs. Vague pricing without an itemized cost breakdown is one such red flag. Also, if the total cost of a procedure is significantly lower than competitors' costs, it could be an indication that the surgeon has little experience, that the facility is not safe or not accredited, or that, procedures may not be performed with the best available techniques or tools.

Another important factor is whether costs are fixed or estimated. Fees associated with the operating room and anesthesia can increase if the surgeon takes longer than expected. Review your quotes carefully and ask questions as they come up to minimize added expenses and unwelcome surprises. Also, beware of comparing quotes offering nonsurgical versus surgical solutions. For example, an Ultherapy brow lift is not the same procedure as a surgical brow lift and will not provide the same long-lasting results. Be wary of deceiving branding that may mislead you about what you are really getting.



How to Compare Quotes from Different Surgeons

Comparing quotes from different plastic surgeons is not always easy, but it is important—it doesn't pay to go with the cheapest option. Something as serious as plastic surgery shouldn't be taken lightly, and selecting a surgeon should never be based on cost alone. After all, you don't want to sacrifice quality to save a few dollars! A bargain job can end up costing you a lot more in the long run with corrective surgery—and in some cases, additional surgery won't be able to change your appearance after a procedure has gone wrong. You don't want to get a Groupon for this!

Instead, consider the following to help you make the most informed decision when comparing quotes from different surgeons.

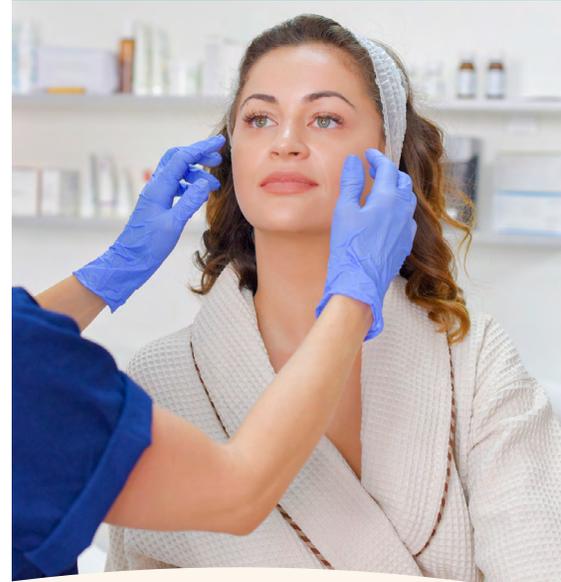


Surgery Location

Where will the surgery take place? Although surgery performed in ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) may be at a higher price point than office-based procedures, they're often the best choice. ASCs typically have higher safety ratings and a lower risk of infection. They also meet the same stringent requirements for patient safety that a hospital would meet.



Something as serious as plastic surgery shouldn't be taken lightly, and selecting a surgeon should never be based on cost alone. A low-cost choice could prove to be very costly in the long run.



Surgical centers (such as the one our doctors at Clevens Face and Body Specialists operate in) are required to undergo strict licensing and difficult state inspections to receive accreditation. Be cautious of lower costs for major procedures that take place in an office-based setting.

Surgical centers can also be a safer option because they require their own clearance to ensure patients are healthy enough to undergo surgery. In other words, surgical centers might stop a surgery from moving forward for the sake of the health of the patient, without regard for the financial impact to the doctor.



Surgical Plan and Materials

Evaluate each surgeon's proposed surgical plan to better understand techniques and costs associated with them. It's common for patients to have multiple procedures at once to save on operating room and anesthesia costs and achieve a better outcome. If you're getting a procedure that requires specific materials, such as breast implants, those costs will vary and change the plastic surgery quote as well. It's also important to consider how long you can expect results to last.



Be cautious of lower costs for major procedures that take place in an office-based setting.



Expiration Date

How long is the surgeon's quote good for? Many quotes for plastic surgery procedures have expiration dates and may only be good for a certain amount of time following the initial consultation. For example, a surgeon's quote might be good for one month following the first appointment. If you receive a quote and then take some time to consider your options, that's completely fine—just make sure you ask for a new, updated quote to ensure you have accurate information and know exactly what you can expect in terms of cost.



Surgeon Expertise

Make sure you choose a board-certified plastic surgeon within the appropriate specialty area. For instance, you will want a facial plastic surgeon to be certified by the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ABFPRS) and a breast and body plastic surgeon to be certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery (ABPS). It's true that you get what you pay for, and in this case, you're paying for expertise and the assurance that your face and/or body are in the right hands. To gauge expertise, look at important details such as a surgeon's years of experience, their training and education, and the number of cases they have completed.

Pro tip

It is common for patients to request information on their doctor's credentials and experience before choosing a surgeon. Trust is the building block of the patient-physician relationship and its significance should weigh heavily on your decision. Keep in mind that you will have a close relationship with your surgeon and their staff for some time before your surgery and for at least one year afterward.



Generalists vs. Specialists

When you own a BMW, you're not going to want to take it to just any shop for repair or maintenance—you want to service it at a place that specializes in European automobiles. The same goes for plastic surgery. There's significant value in choosing an expert who has a specialization in the field of plastic surgery that best matches your area of interest. A specialist will focus on one specific area of the body, i.e., the face or the body—not both—meaning that they have successfully performed many of the procedures you are interested in and have the before and after pictures to prove it. They likely also have additional training or fellowships related to their area of focus.

Pricing for cosmetic surgery can be difficult to make sense of, and comparing quotes from different surgeons is anything but easy. However, with these tips in mind, you can review plastic surgery quotes with complete confidence that you understand all the costs associated with the procedure of your choosing.

Meet the Face and Body Specialists

Clevens Face and Body Specialists is a comprehensive plastic surgery group and medspa servicing Melbourne, Orlando, and Central Florida. Patients travel from throughout the country for the expertise of Clevens Face and Body Specialists surgeons. All of our providers are specialists in their areas of expertise, meaning they each spend all of their time focused on treating specialty areas. If you choose Clevens Face and Body Specialists for a cosmetic procedure, you can have complete confidence knowing you're in the hands of the most experienced surgeons around.





Do you have questions about the costs of plastic surgery or any of the procedures we offer at Clevens Face and Body Specialists? We'd love to answer them! Schedule your consultation to learn more.

[Schedule Your Consultation](#)



707 W Eau Gallie Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32935
(321) 727-3223 | www.drcevencs.com