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Plastic surgery can be defined as medical specialty that mainly deals with correction of form and restoring vital functions. The most talked about form is cosmetic surgery; however it includes other areas like reconstructive surgery, microsurgery, and treatment of burns. The term plastic has nothing to do with the material plastic; it is derived from Greek meaning shaping or modeling

The popular misconception is that plastic surgery is a development of modern medicine. However, these techniques were carried out in India around 800 BC. Shushrutha, who is considered to be the father of Surgery, made important contributions in the field of plastic surgery in the 6 Century BC. The medical treatises written by him in Sanskrit were later translated into Arabic and finally into other European languages. There are historical records that show that British physicians traveled to India to watch rhinoplasties being performed using native methods. The instruments described in Shushrutha's works were modified and used in the Western countries. The Egyptians and Romans also practiced plastic surgery though they restricted it to simple repairs of torn ears, usually as a result of injuries sustained in battle

The first American Plastic Surgeon was John Mettauer, who performed the first cleft palate operation successfully. He used instruments that he had designed himself; this was in the year 1827. In 1845 Johann Dieffenbach wrote a detailed text on rhinoplasty and introduced the concept of reworking on operated noses to give a better look. This was followed by several people who concentrated on perfected the technique already developed

Rapid strides were made during the World War I when surgeons had their hands full due to the hideous wounds that the soldiers received. The US Army had a couple of surgeons enlisted to specifically attend to reconstructive surgery for soldiers wounded at war. An important procedure adopted in cosmetic plastic surgery was transfer of skin tissue, which could be from the patient or from willing donors. The surgeon's skill is at play when incisions are made so that there is hardly any overlapping which could result in folds in the skin. Extreme care was taken during suturing so that tell-tale marks were completely avoided

Reconstructive surgery is performed to correct congenital defects like cleft palates and cleft lips, it is better if these surgeries are performed during childhood itself as there will hardly be any scars and the child is relieved of the mental trauma. Burns and traumatic injuries resulting with bone fractures are corrected by this surgery. As also injuries received as a result of attacks from wild animals and other abnormalities arising out of infections and diseases like cancer or tumors. The surgeries are carried out to not only to correct such acquired abnormalities, but to also enhance an otherwise normal appearance

The most common reconstructive procedures would include removal of tumors, repairing scars, lacerations, hand deformities, and breast reduction. The number of breast reconstructive surgeries in the United States has been showing an upward trend in recent years. Surprisingly, a large number of men have been going in for breast reduction surgeries. The ignominy of losing one or both breasts to cancer need no longer be suffered by women. Successful reconstruction of several cases of mastectomy has given immense relief to the patients.

Cosmetic plastic surgery intended for enhancement of appearance has become very popular. There were about 11 million cosmetic procedures performed in the United States alone. These range from Abdominoplasty (commonly called a 'tummy tuck'), Blepharoplasty or surgery of eyelids, Phallophasty (penile liposuction) and reconstruction of the male organ and Breast augmentation or

'implants' are the most common procedures. More such related programs are aired by popular service providers like Dish TV Packages.

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Randy Collins is a freelance author who likes to keep updated with the latest advances in medical technology and keenly follows related programs aired on a [Dish TV Packages](#).

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