

# Cosmetic Procedures

## The Beautification of Fort Wayne —From Head to Toe

By Connie Gorrell, BSN, RN

**L**ong ago in a land far away lived a beautiful Egyptian queen. Her name was Cleopatra. She was known to be distinguished and intelligent, fluent in nine languages, and a shrewd, seductive, cunning politician who used her womanly ways to get what she wanted. Legend also describes her as the most alluring and beautiful woman in the world, the beguiling Queen of the Nile. Some say her beauty was beyond compare. But was it? There are differing accounts in regard to Cleo's beauty. Many men fought and died for her charisma, and it said that her beauty could have changed the face of the world ... had it not been for her long, bent nose.

The quest for physical beauty is as ancient as time itself. Historians have traced the roots of plastic surgery as far back as early documents of Egypt and the Sanskrit texts of ancient India, some written more than 2,500 years ago. Within their texts lie descriptions of nose, ear and lip reconstructions with techniques still used today. There is indication that early surgeons may have practiced on people with injuries sustained from the trauma of physical mutilation as punishment for their crimes. The field of plastic surgery has evolved over time to become a diverse professional specialty with individuals from a variety of backgrounds, continually working to reform and refine its self. Its popularity and social acceptance have never been greater than they are today.

In the fight against the effects of the gravitational pull on the human body, more than 8.7 billion cosmetic — also known as plastic — surgery procedures were performed in the United States in 2003. These varied from non - or minimally invasive procedures performed in a doctor's office to major surgeries requiring hospitalization with the risk of serious complications. Indeed, the decision to have elective plastic surgery is a serious one to consider, but technology for cosmetic improvement is available, and the talent is right here in Fort Wayne.

# Plastic Surgery

**T**he term 'plastic surgery' encompasses both cosmetic and reconstructive procedures. A person may elect to have a cosmetic procedure to reshape, freshen or improve their physical appearance and self-image. Since it is elective, meaning not medically necessary, health insurance rarely covers the expenses of a cosmetic procedure. Fees are customarily paid up front and vary widely according to the desired procedure and degree of invasiveness. Other factors to consider are the level of anesthesia administered and if the procedure takes place in the clinician's office or at a surgery center.

Reconstructive surgery focuses on the repair of abnormal structures of the body caused by birth defects, developmental abnormalities, injury, tumors or various diseases. The desired goal may be to improve the function of the affected part of the body or to simulate a more normal appearance. Since the goal of reconstructive surgery is usually medically based, most health plans generally cover specific procedures, though the levels of coverage may vary. It is always wise to check with insurance carriers for pre-approval before launching into a lengthy surgical procedure.

The increasing focus on procedural cosmetics is becoming more evident at offices in the Fort Wayne area. Geoffrey Randolph, MD, Summit Plastic Surgery, has seen a "significant increase in cosmetic practice over the past two years alone." Summit's practice is 65 percent reconstructive and 35 percent cosmetic work. This trend is echoed from beauty salons to physicians' offices and surgery centers throughout the country. Thus the cosmetic craze has arrived. Welcome it to Fort Wayne, Indiana. The beautification process has begun from hair replacement to spider veins, and most everything in between!

