

Facial Harmony can be improved with nasal surgery

Is your nose in balance with the rest of your facial features? If not, you may consider improving your facial harmony through nasal surgery.

Analyzing the nose before surgery

The first step in planning a nasal procedure is a careful analysis of your nose. To do this, your cosmetic facial surgeon will examine - and photograph - your nose from several different angles: the profile, frontal, base, oblique, and smiling views.

In the **profile view**, Dr. Younger evaluates the angles formed by the top of the nose, the brow, the base of the nose and the upper lip. Then, tip projection (how far out the tip extends) and tip rotation (whether the tip is tilted up or down) are measured. Next Dr. Younger may draw a vertical line down from the edge of your lower lip. The chin should just touch the line. If it doesn't, the prominence of the nose may be exaggerated; in that case, chin augmentation may help bring your facial features into balance. Finally, your opinion about the shape of your nose will be considered. Most people like a relatively straight nose, but slight hump often is acceptable in men, and women may prefer a slightly scooped shape.

The **frontal view** shows problems with width; bulging in the tip; and abnormalities of the nasal septum, the wall that divides the nose into two chambers. Your nose should fall within lines drawn down from the inner edges of each brow. Crookedness may indicate a deviated septum or a problem with the bone or internal cartilage of the nose.

When seen in the **base view**, the nasal tip should appear triangular, and the nostrils should be symmetrical in shape and size. The division between the nostrils should be straight and at the midline. The width of the base should fall within parallel lines drawn straight down from the inner edge of each eye.

Halfway between the frontal and profile views is the **oblique view**. Dr. Younger will photograph this three quarter view to show how your nose aligns with your cheeks, chin and forehead. Finally because your nose is a dynamic feature and may change shape when you smile, the surgeon will evaluate the **smiling view**, studying and photographing your face from several angles as you smile.

Repairing nasal problems

Surgery to correct nasal defects is called rhinoplasty, and the procedure to correct a deviated septum is called septoplasty. Surgery to correct both the nose's outer appearance and its function is called septorhinoplasty.

Rhinoplasty incisions usually are made just within the nose's rim. If the width of the tip needs to be reduced, additional incisions may be made on each side where the nostril joins the face. In some cases, an incision may be made across the mid portion of the nasal base. Working through these incisions, Dr. Younger may shave away excess bone, reposition cartilage and bone, and refine the shape of the nasal tip. If necessary, a graft or strut constructed of your own cartilage may be positioned to widen the airway, support the nasal septum, or reposition the tip.

The most important goal of rhinoplasty is to preserve or improve nasal function while creating a balanced appearance. Quite often, the actual change is very subtle. Even a minor correction, however, can make a big difference in overall facial harmony.