

# Facial Rejuvenation is more than Skin Deep

Seeking ways to turn back the effects of aging has become a national obsession. This beauty craze crosses all social, economic, ethnic and age classifications. Since 1997 there has been an increase of 444 percent in the total number of cosmetic procedures. Surgical procedures have increased by 119 percent and non-surgical procedures by 726 percent. There were over eleven million cosmetic surgical and non-surgical procedures performed in the United States in 2005, according to statistics released by the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS). Common surgical facial procedures include facelift, forehead lift, blepharoplasty (cosmetic eyelid surgery), chin augmentation and rhinoplasty (nose reshaping). The most common non-surgical procedures for the face include Botox to reduce facial wrinkles, and hyaluronic acids (Hylaform, Restylane) to fill the lips and nasolabial folds. Most non-surgical procedures like Botox and Restylane are considered temporary with treatment repeated every 4-6 months. Surgical procedures like face and forehead lifts are typically considered long lasting.

Here's the good news...cosmetic and reconstructive dentistry can make an aging face look dramatically different. Cosmetic veneers, crowns or dentures can reverse the aging smile and sagging face by replacing short, worn, chipped, or stained teeth with a beautiful, natural smile. The extra benefit of a reconstructed smile is correct facial support to the lips, nasolabial folds (lines on either

side of the nose and mouth) and lower third of the face. Thin lips are rejuvenated with support and fullness provided by the proper placement of natural teeth in the mouth. This provides uniform lip support resulting in a

youthful display of teeth when speaking and smiling. Nasolabial fold support is improved by the proper position of the upper teeth when a smile is restored, which is particularly important for the cosmetic denture patient. The lower third

of the face can be corrected by restoring natural teeth with excessive wear. Bone loss commonly associated with denture wearer's results in unsightly facial collapse and wrinkles. Giving length and dimension to a new smile often improves the jaw line profile and increases facial tautness similar to a facelift.

As we age our lips thin and relax causing us to show less of our upper teeth and more of our lower teeth as we speak and smile. This can be compounded if your teeth have become worn, short and yellowed. **Take this test.....**look in the mirror and open your mouth about a half inch to a relaxed position. Are most of your lower teeth showing but you see very little of your upper teeth? Your smile is aging. Next close your mouth completely. Do the corners of your mouth fold excessively and create a long wrinkle? Is the distance between your chin and nose tip shorter than the distance between your eyebrow and nose tip? Again your smile is aging. Fortunately this can all be corrected by cosmetic dentistry.

Whether your goal is age defiance or just graceful aging the connection between dental reconstruction and plastic surgery cannot be denied. One does not preclude the other but rather both can complement and complete your goals. Cosmetic and reconstructive dentistry yields long term cosmetic enhancements. The life changing result enables you to achieve a healthy diet and life style, improve your social self esteem and gives you the smile you've always wanted.



**Samuel F. Jirik DDS PA** 20 years  
 GENERAL DENTISTRY