

The Face in the Mirror:
What's Good about Cosmetic Surgery

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English 3C

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November 22, 2006

Today, cosmetic surgery is very popular. The number of people who have cosmetic surgery has increased. In Korea, to have cosmetic surgery before entrance into a school or job hunting has become common. Now young Korean women have it at a ratio of one of every six women (**Korean women, 2005**). In Japan, TV programs which deal with cosmetic surgery are popular. However, it is also a fact that many people oppose cosmetic surgery. Should we accept cosmetic surgery? **I think we should accept it** because cosmetic surgery has at least three advantages.

First, **it can remove an inferiority complex about a person's looks.** **Dittman (2005)** found that 87% of patients reported satisfaction one year after receiving cosmetic surgery. Please imagine that you always talk with your head down because you worry about spots in your face. Such a life is very boring. If you have cosmetic surgery and your spots are removed, you become confident in your looks and you would talk with your face lifted. Moreover, if you become confident in your looks, you could challenge many things which you wanted to do before your cosmetic surgery. For example, you can tell your love to a person you loved, wear the clothes which didn't suit you before your cosmetic surgery, or work in the presence of other people. Cosmetic surgery changes you into an active person, so you come to enjoy your life to the fullest.

Second, **it can improve impressions that other persons have of you.** For example, a sharp eyed-woman is often regarded as severe and unfriendly although she may be very kind and friendly. That is a heavy loss for her. If she has cosmetic surgery which changes her sharp eyes into softer eyes, we regard her as cute, kind, and friendly (**Nip and tuck, 2005**). Her first impression completely changes for the better. Good first impressions are important in the business world (**Dougherty, Turban, & Callender, 1994**). If your first impression is good, you can be trusted and you can close a bargain

more easily. In the political arena, too, looks are important: Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian prime minister, had cosmetic surgery in 2003 to improve his looks for political reasons (**Berlusconi, 2004**). Cosmetic surgery gives us social advantages.

Third, there are some cases where **cosmetic surgery is good for a person's health**. For example, there is strong evidence that poor teeth contribute to lung disease as bacteria enter the lungs (**Poor teeth, 2001**). In addition, straightening of crooked teeth, which is one type of cosmetic surgery, is good for not only the person's looks but also for his health. A person who has regular teeth looks cleaner and fresher than before he or she had cosmetic surgery. Moreover, regular teeth can meet properly so that the person can eat more easily and chew his or her food better (**Bobroff, n.d.**).

OTHER SIDE → Of course, a lot of people still claim that what is important for a person is not how she looks but what is inside her, so people don't need to have **cosmetic surgery**. *However, if there are two people who have the same character, which person would you like better? I think that you would like the person who looks better, and this is a common perception in Asia* (**Nip and tuck, 2005**). Similar things happen when you choose your fiancé, you employ a new staff member, or you elect a prime minister. A person's value doesn't depend on the person's looks, but the person's value does include the person's looks. Therefore, I also think that to improve a person's looks through cosmetic surgery enhances the person's value.

Consequently, I think **we should allow and embrace cosmetic surgery** because it has three advantages. We become active and we can enjoy our life because cosmetic surgeries **remove our inferiority complex**, we get social advantage because cosmetic surgeries **improve our impression**, and we **become healthier**. Moreover, to improve our looks enhances our value. Cosmetic surgery is, of course, a personal

choice, but for these reasons we should permit people to have cosmetic surgery if they so choose.

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