

PHYSICIAN QUESTIONNAIRE

EXPERTISE

1. Is the professional you are considering to provide you with fillers or other treatments a plastic surgeon or is he or she someone who performs some cosmetic procedures without being a specialist?

Increasingly, various establishments not focused on plastic surgery have added some minimally invasive treatments as sidelines to their primary businesses. Our advice is to engage a well-trained, experienced specialist who has a full-time focus on this type of work for any time of cosmetic procedure you may be considering.

2. Is the surgeon you are considering double-board certified? In other words, in addition to being certified for general surgery, is the surgeon also specifically certified in plastic surgery?

Plastic surgery is a specialty: you will want to look for a physician who has the additional in-depth training needed to foresee any potential complications and provide you with the best result. Physicians who are also board-certified specifically in plastic surgery have shown extra commitment, done additional residency work and have taken additional training, all of which can benefit you as a patient.

3. Where did the surgeon do his or her plastic surgery residency training?

Look for a prestigious institution with a high volume of patient flow. The top institutions tend to get more than their share of difficult surgical situations, meaning a plastic surgeon training at one of these facilities may have encountered a broader range of possible procedures and potential complications. You ideally want a surgeon who has “seen it all before” when you are looking for a plastic surgeon you can trust to do the best work for you.

EXPERIENCE

4. How many years has your plastic surgeon been in practice in the current general location?

While surgical training is critical, time in private practice can also be a factor in the kind of result your doctor will be able to get for you. Experience matters. Ideally, look for a plastic surgeon who has worked in one market for many years and who has served patients successful for an extended period of time.

5. How much experience does your surgeon have with the particular procedure you are considering?

It is a plus for a surgeon you are considering to have experience across a broad range of procedures. In addition, look for someone who has done a meaningful number of the specific type of procedure you are seeking.

6. What do other patients say about their experience with the plastic surgeon you are considering?

Online Google reviews may be one way to learn more about the reputation of a particular plastic surgeon, but these reviews are usually brief and may lack a level of detail that would be helpful to you. Another good approach is to talk to actual patients your surgeon has served. You will get a very clear picture of the full experience you can expect from that type of word-of-mouth information.

PERSONALIZED ATTENTION

7. A plastic surgeon may have met all of your expertise and experience requirements, but what kind of personal connection can you establish with him or her?

Does your surgeon take the time you need to answer your question without seeming hurried? Do you get the sense that you are important and are receiving personalized attention?

8. Is your plastic surgeon a well-rounded, good person whom you believe you can trust?

How much do you know about the surgeon you are considering outside the area of his or her practice? Is your surgeon part of the community in any meaningful way? Are there ways your surgeon does good in the world outside the scope of the plastic surgery practice? These considerations may or may not matter significantly to you, but generally getting a sense of “the person” in addition to “the surgeon” may be meaningful.

9. How are you treated from the very first interaction with the office team?

You can tell a lot about a surgeon based on the practice’s team. Does each member of the team treat you well at every interaction? Are they prompt and attentive, and do they use your time well? Are they responsive and courteous? Remember that you will be dealing not only with the surgeon, but with the office staff as well. You should feel completely comfortable with every exchange.

Good luck with your search for the right plastic surgeon. Dr. Lincenberg and his team are here to help you live the ageless life however we can, and we hope to speak with you soon!