



Greenville Ear, Nose & Throat

Rhinoplasty: What You Need to Know

Rhinoplasty is a delicate, technical form of aesthetic (plastic) surgery. The goal of rhinoplasty is to improve your appearance, but no surgeon can guarantee the results of any aesthetic surgery. Your surgeon will make every effort to create the best result possible, but perfection is an unrealistic goal.

Your surgeon may need to perform an additional procedure—septoplasty—to straighten your septum (the wall between both sides of your nose) and improve your ability to breathe through your nose. This combined procedure is called septorhinoplasty.

Rhinoplasty surgery usually is performed inside the nose using special surgical instruments, but it may be necessary to make a small incision beneath your nose to give your surgeon better access to your internal nasal structures.

All surgical procedures have risks, but complications are rare. Possible complications include the following:

- Bleeding after the surgery
- Infection
- Delayed healing
- Scarring inside the nose
- Perforation of the septum
- Spinal fluid leak
- Meningitis
- Changes in sensations of smell and taste
- Injury to an eye
- Small irregularities or asymmetry of the nose

In patients with badly deformed noses, it may not be possible to correct all conditions in a single operation. A second “touchup” surgery may be needed several months after the first operation to improve results or correct poor healing.