

Nose Surgery (Rhinoplasty)



What Is Rhinoplasty?

Rhinoplasty is a surgery to change the shape of the nose. Some people choose it for cosmetic reasons—others to improve breathing or fix an injury. Many procedures include both functional and cosmetic goals.

Common reasons for surgery include:

- A bump on the bridge of the nose
- A wide or crooked nose
- A droopy or bulbous tip
- A deviated septum (which may affect breathing)
- A nose that doesn't "fit" with the rest of the face

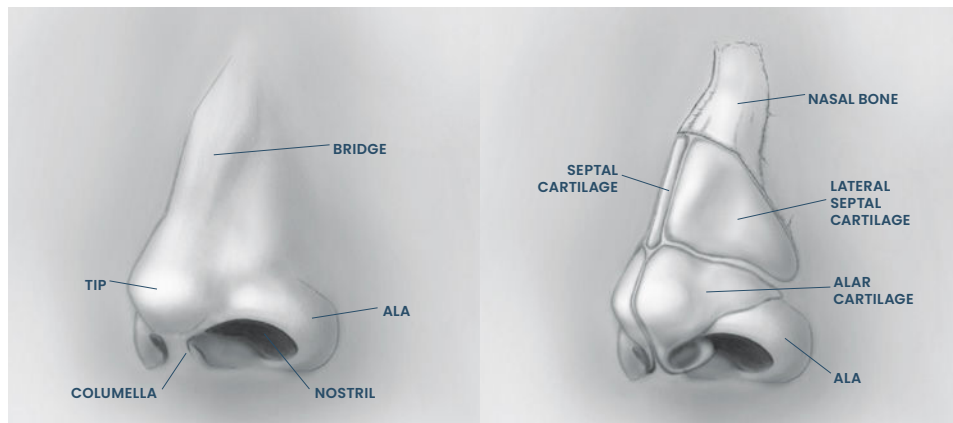
Oculofacial plastic surgeons are skilled in reshaping the nose while protecting function and appearance.

What Happens During Surgery?

Rhinoplasty is typically done under general anesthesia in an outpatient setting. Depending on your anatomy and goals, the surgeon may:

- Reshape the bone and cartilage
- Narrow or lift the tip
- Straighten or remove a bump
- Improve the angle between the nose and upper lip
- Fix breathing issues (often through septoplasty)

Incisions are made inside the nose or in a small area between the nostrils. In most cases, scars are minimal or hidden.



Recovery After Surgery

- You'll go home the same day
- A splint may be worn on the nose for 1 week
- Swelling and bruising are common, especially around the eyes
- Pain is usually mild and controlled with medication
- Most people feel well enough to return to work in 1–2 weeks
- Final results take time—swelling may last for several months

You'll have follow-up visits to make sure healing is on track.

Risks and Considerations

All surgeries carry risks. With rhinoplasty, these may include:

- Bleeding or infection (rare)
- Breathing problems
- Nose shape that is asymmetrical or not as expected
- Need for a revision surgery

Let your doctor know if you take blood thinners, smoke, or have had prior nose surgery.

It's important to have realistic expectations. Perfection is not possible, but most patients are happy with their results and feel more confident afterward.

Summary

Rhinoplasty can reshape your nose, improve breathing, and enhance your appearance. Your oculofacial plastic surgeon will help you understand the options and set realistic goals based on your needs.

The Oculofacial Society is the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS) public-facing website for patients and referring physicians. To learn more about the services provided by ASOPRS members, visit www.oculofacialsociety.org.

ASOPRS is a professional medical society dedicated to advancing education, research, and the quality of clinical practice in aesthetic, plastic, and reconstructive surgery of the face, orbits, eyelids, and lacrimal system.