

Specific Risks of Nose Reshaping or Rhinoplasty

Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk and it is important that you understand these risks and the possible complications associated with them. In addition, every procedure has limitations. An individual's choice to undergo a surgical procedure is based on the comparison of the risk to potential benefit. Although most patients do not experience these complications, you should discuss them with your plastic surgeon at The Aesthetic Center by Kaiser Permanente to make sure you understand all possible risks of rhinoplasty.

Damage to Donor Sites

Occasionally the procedure will involve using cartilage or bone graft taken from another site on the body. This adds risks which your surgeon will discuss with you.

Damage to Overlying Nasal Skin

Damage can occur to the overlying nasal skin. Although rare, this can be severe and irreversible.

Implants (Rarely Used)

An implant may be used in some rhinoplasty operations. Implants may become infected or exposed, requiring removal. This may occur at any time in the future.

Delayed Healing

Fracture disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. Some areas of the nose may not heal normally and may take a long time to heal. Areas of skin may die. This may require frequent dressing changes or further surgery to remove the non-healed tissue.

Nasal Septal Perforation

Infrequently, a hole in the nasal septum will develop. The occurrence of this is rare. Additional surgical treatment may be necessary to repair the nasal septum. In some cases, it may be impossible to correct this complication.

Nasal Airway Alterations

Changes may occur after a rhinoplasty or septoplasty operation that may interfere with normal passage of air through the nose.

Substance Abuse Disorders

Individuals with substance abuse problems that involve the inhalation of vasoconstrictive drugs such as cocaine are at risk for major complications including poor healing and nasal septal perforation.

Asymmetry

The human face is normally asymmetric. There can be normal differences between each side of the nose in terms of shape and size. There can be a variation from one side to the other in the results obtained from a rhinoplasty procedure. Additional surgery may be necessary to correct postoperative asymmetry.

Prolonged Edema

Swelling is normal after surgery but sometimes prolonged swelling, or edema, occurs. This is caused by extra fluid trapped in the tissues of the nose/body.

Revision Surgery

Every effort is made for you to have a favorable outcome but, unforeseen events can occur that may require revisional surgery. Patients with multiple medical problems, massive weight loss patients, smokers, patients that develop infections in the post-operative period and other high-risk patients have a greater propensity to require revisional surgery.