

Breast Job Gone Wrong

Announcer: KFVB NewsTime, 5:22.

Maggie: Alright, this patient goes in for breast augmentation. She went in with two. She came out with...

Announcer: One.

Maggie: Yeah.

Announcer: Crazy. Alright her name Dinora Rodriguez, 40-year-old stay-at-home mom here in L.A., went in for this procedure and then, according to one expert, a board certified plastic surgeon, she came out with a bad case of what he calls symmastia. It's a uni-boob, he says. It's where the implant pockets are connected in the middle and they should not be, of course. We know that. So we spoke with Dr. Paul Nassif, facial plastic surgeon in Beverly Hills, and asked him, you know, basically what are you supposed to do when you look for a plastic surgeon?

Maggie: So Dr. Nassif, how in the world does someone go in for corrective surgery on a breast augmentation and come out with, instead of two, one?

Dr. Nassif: You know, Maggie, as you know I'm a facial plastic surgeon you know. In general, I don't want to comment on breast surgery since I don't perform them, but I can say that, you know, when there's so many different doctors performing cosmetic procedures, you always have to make sure you're going to, number one, a board certified, in that case for the body, a plastic surgeon or for any type of facial surgery a board certified facial plastic or general plastic surgeon. You also have to make sure that there's no active medical board issues with the doctor. You have to be able to maybe look at reviews on the Internet since there's numerous websites that talk about the doctor and reviews from patients. You also have to be able to look at the before and afters, meet the office staff, meet the doctor and make sure that you have a sense of trust. And one of the most important things, for example like me, I'm a nasal specialist. I do a lot of noses.

Maggie: Right.

Dr. Nassif: And noses are a very difficult surgery. In general, you want to make sure that person you're going to is a specialist, especially if there's a problem. Are they a revision specialist? Because you have doctors out there now that are, they call themselves cosmetic surgeons, but they're not properly trained or they might take a weekend course on doing a breast augmentation or liposuction. And again this is real surgery.

Maggie: A weekend course?

Dr. Nassif: Yes, there's been weekend courses where they can teach you liposuction, whether it's a family practice doctor, emergency room physician. You have to just make sure that you really do your research.

Maggie: You were talking about online reviews. Is there like some official website where you can tell that the doctor really is qualified to do this, whatever work you're looking for?

Dr. Nassif: You know, I have to tell you, the problem with the Internet and with websites, it's a Wild West out there.

Maggie: Right.

Dr. Nassif: So in other words, any person can go on, whether it's a competitor or one unhappy patient, anybody can go out and write a review about anybody.

Maggie: But is there a medical website?

Dr. Nassif: You know, I think the thing always good to do is you always want to check with the medical board to see if that person has any problems, whether it's active lawsuits or any problems with the medical board. In addition, you want to go to the formal website of what they say they're board certified in.

Maggie: And he said if you have, ask them three questions: Do you have a lot of experience in this specific area? Do you think I'm realistic? Do you think you can achieve what I'm asking for? Because he says, ten percent of the time, he says to his patients, no, your expectations are overboard and unrealistic.

Announcer: You will not look like Lady Gaga.

Maggie: Alright, and three, if I have a problem after surgery, how do you handle it? Because a lot of people just say I'll go to another doctor or whatever. So those are his three tips.

Announcer: That sounds like some good advice there.

Maggie: Yeah.

Announcer: KFVB News Time, 5:26.