

NOT ALL DOCTORS ARE THE SAME!

Properly board-certified plastic and facial plastic surgeons do not refer to themselves as "cosmetic surgeons." Cosmetic surgeons are doctors, but they don't hold recognized board-certifications in plastic surgery.

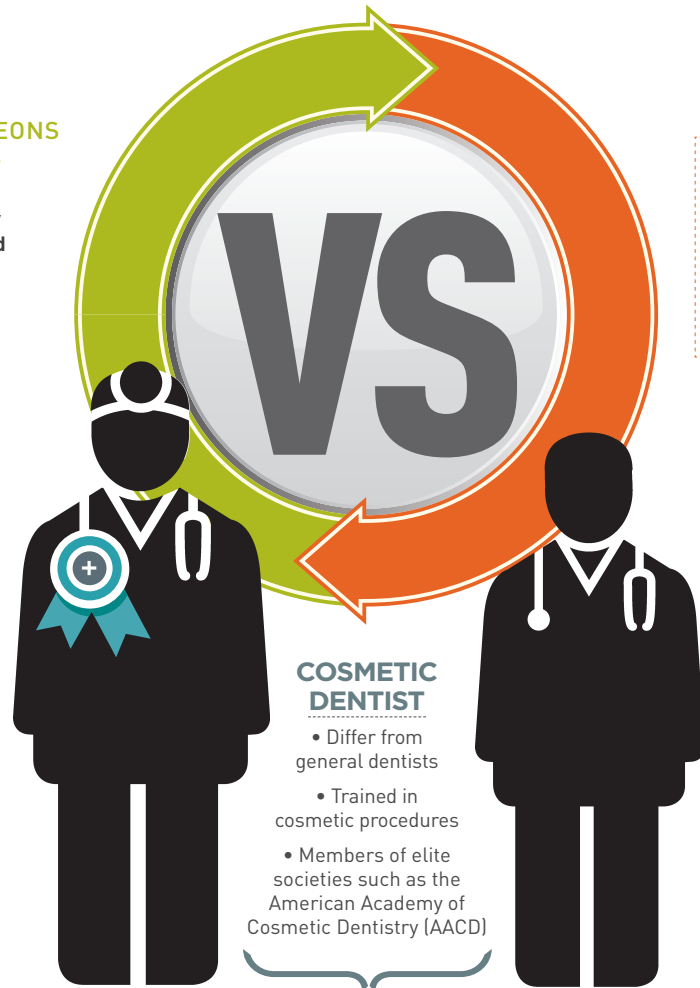
RIGHT

PLASTIC SURGEONS, FACIAL PLASTIC SURGEONS AND DERMATOLOGISTS

Board-certified means properly certified by the **American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)**; additionally having undergone the necessary surgical training in a supervised setting and demonstrated best practices for patient safety.

- ✓ Properly board-certified by ABMS
- ✓ Education and training extends beyond general medicine and surgery (See timeline below)
- ✓ Educated and trained in both cosmetic and reconstructive surgical procedures*
- ✓ Operate in safe, accredited facilities*
- ✓ Have hospital privileges for the procedures performed*
- ✓ Hold memberships with elite medical societies

*Applies only to plastic surgeons



COSMETIC DENTIST

- Differ from general dentists
- Trained in cosmetic procedures
- Members of elite societies such as the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD)

WRONG

COSMETIC SURGEONS

Any type of doctor, even an OB-GYN or ER doctor, can hold a medical degree and may be board-certified to practice a specific type of medicine, but not plastic surgery. Cosmetic surgeons are often self-taught in aesthetic procedures.

- ✗ Not a real board-certified plastic surgeon by definition
- ✗ Limited or no plastic surgery training, often with weekend crash courses
- ✗ Frequently offer lower prices and often operate in unaccredited facilities that have no oversight or inspections

LINGO TO LOOK OUT FOR

"American Board of Cosmetic Surgery"

"Cosmetic surgeon" rather than plastic surgeon

Any board with the word "cosmetic" in it

Plastic Surgeons: Board-certified and trained in cosmetic and reconstructive procedures for the face, breast and body.

Facial Plastic Surgeons: Board-certified plastic surgeons with training in face, head and neck surgery.

Cosmetic Dentists: Dentists who devote most of their time to enhancing the appearance of patients' smiles.

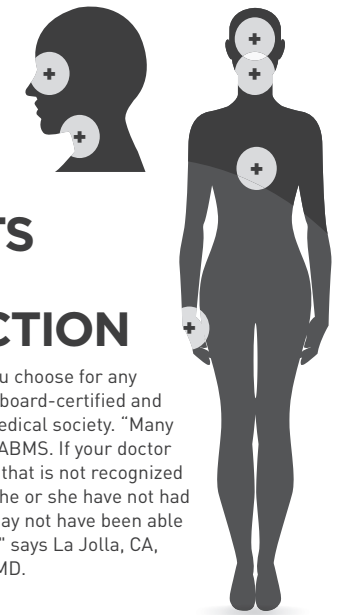
Dermatologists: Board-certified physicians who are trained exclusively in the care of the skin, hair and nails.

Hair Restoration Specialists: Board-certified doctors who have advanced training to treat the scalp, hair and lashes.

Oculoplastic Surgeons: Ophthalmologists who are fellowship-trained to treat the eyes.

SPECIALISTS FEATURED IN THIS SECTION

It's important that the doctor you choose for any elective cosmetic procedure be board-certified and a member of the appropriate medical society. "Many societies are not recognized by ABMS. If your doctor touts membership with a board that is not recognized by ABMS, it's probably because he or she have not had recognized formal training or may not have been able to pass his or her board exams," says La Jolla, CA, plastic surgeon Robert Singer, MD.



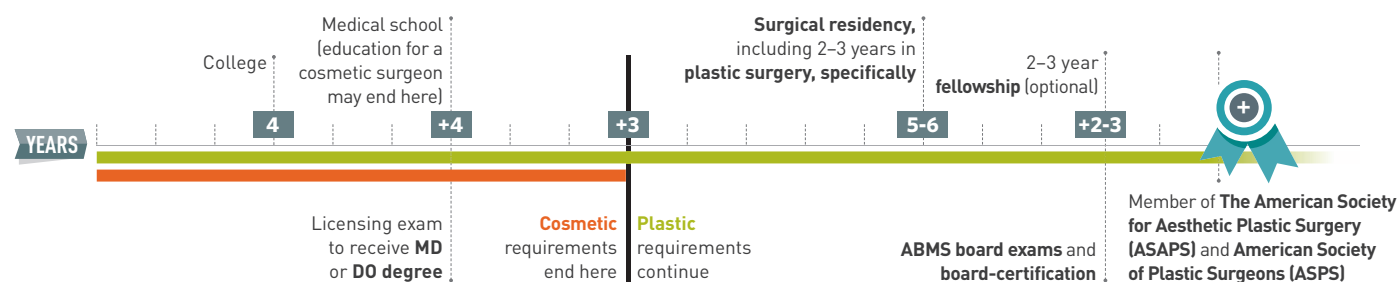
ENHANCE

WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A NEWBEAUTY DOCTOR...



WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A REAL PLASTIC SURGEON...

EDUCATION TIMELINE This is how long it takes to become a board-certified plastic surgeon versus a cosmetic surgeon.



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