

CHIN AUGMENTATION

When it comes to chin projection, there are some aesthetic ideals we can use. And from a profile alone, we generally determine whether or not we want a chin or not want a chin enhancement. It is usually not the front view, it is the side view (unless one wants to widen the chin or jawline).

We tend to look at the relationship between the nose, the lower lip, and the chin. Sometimes these points all wind up in a straight line, and if you connect this invisible line between the tip of the nose and the lower lip, and the chin sits behind that invisible line, a chin augmentation may improve one's profile to improve the balance of the face.

For men in particular, strong chins are somewhat desirable, and so, we can often augment the chin and tighten the neck in combination to really improve the profile in men. Interestingly, a lot of people think that chin implants are almost only used to strengthen the profile or masculinize the face, but in truth, we can add implants to feminize the face. When we add implants to women, they can be done to either (in the front view, add more volume to the chin to turn a longer face into a more squarish face, or turn a wider face into a more narrow face by adding a more narrow implant. (Thus, proper size and shaped chin implants can effect the front view almost as much as the side view view, or profile.)

So, there are many ways to really remodel the face using chin implants. Lastly, I should say that chin implants do not only improve your aesthetics, they can also rejuvenate the face because as we do age the chin will often descend and we have erosion of bone and tissue loss. Sometimes adding a chin implant, at least a small one into the face, will improve the profile and make the profile more youthful.

Chin implants are placed from two different incisions, one is intraoral where a small incision is made inside the mouth and placed along the inferior border of the mandible, and the second way is through a small external incision just under the chin. For the most part, chin augmentation is very safe. It is a fantastic operation and it is one of the operations where when people have it done, interestingly enough, many patients won't know you had it done. They will just know you look better. They will think you lost weight and that will be the most common thing people attribute to you new look to (plastic surgeons are always the last to receive credit!).

The improvements from chin augmentation is particularly striking when it is combined with submental (under the neck) liposuction or some type of neck rejuvenation. It is surprising how often we will put chin implants in men and women and they come back to the office because they fear that someone is going to think they had plastic surgery. And they go back to the office and no one at all knows notices they had any work done; they just think they look a whole lot better, and that is the beauty of a chin implant. It is so natural looking, so safe, so effective in creating subtle but significant changes to the face.

TAKE HOME POINT: Chin implants can improve both front views and profiles in men and women alike, and are often combined with some type of neck rejuvenation procedure.