# Plastic Surgery Encyclopedia Article

## Plastic Surgery

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# Plastic Surgery

Applications of plastic surgery in pediatrics have focused primarily on the correction of congenital deformities and repairing damage from traumatic injuries. To make plastic surgery (or any surgery) less risky for infants and young children, researchers have experimented with new techniques of **anesthesia.** In addition, plastic surgeons have sought to develop better techniques for the treatment and repair of skin damage resulting from burns, and improved techniques for the repair of congenital deformities of the hand and craniofacial reconstruction for repair of **cleft lip** and **palate,** one of the most common plastic surgeries for babies, children, and adolescents

A relatively small percentage of plastic surgery procedures are performed on patients under 18 for cosmetic purposes. These procedures include otoplasty (correcting prominent ears) and rhinoplasty (reshaping the nose); and breast augmentation and breast reduction. Data from the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons on cosmetic procedures performed on patients under age 18 are shown in the accompanying table..

Sadove, A.M., and B.L. Eppley. "Pediatric Plastic Surgery. *Clinical Plastic Surgery* 23, January 1996, pp. 139-55.

## Operation Smile International

In 1982, plastic surgeon William Magee and his social worker wife, Kathleen, founded the non-profit organization Operation Smile. As of 1996, the organization's surgeons had performed surgery on 18,000 children in 15 countries. Surgeries performed included cleft lip and palate correction, and burn scar correction.

## For Further Study

### Books

Hayes, Harry, ed. *An Anthology of Plastic Surgery.* Rockville, MD: Aspen Publishers, 1986.

Smith, James D., and Robert M. Bumsted, eds. *Pediatric Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.* Arlington Heights, IL: Lippincott-Raven, 1993.

### Periodicals

"Local Heroes." *Time* 147, June 3, 1996, p. 20.

Richard, M.E. "Common Pediatri Craniofacial Reconstructions." *Nurse Clinician in North America* 29, December 1994, pp. 791-99..

| Procedure | Total number | Percentage of patients (all ages) |
|---|---|---|
| Breast augmentation | 1,172 | 1 % |
| Breast reduction in males | 1,319 | 22% |
| Ear surgery | 2,470 | 34% |
| Nose reshaping | 4,313 | 9% |

## Organizations

American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons
Address: 444 East Algonquin Road
Arlington Hts., IL 60005
**Telephone:** (847) 228-9900
**FAX:** (847) 228-9131