

Endotine™ Cheek Lift

Cheek Lift procedure with the ENDOTINE™ Midface Devices

The area between your lower eyelids and your mouth is considered the midface. As you age, the effects of gravity, repeated muscle contraction, and lifestyle cause the skin, fat, and muscle in this region to move downwards. When this occurs, the cheeks begin to look saggy or flat, lower eyelids can become puffy or hollow, circles begin to appear under the eyes, and the lines between the nose and the corner of the mouth deepen.

The ENDOTINE™ Cheek Lift restores the natural curves and fullness in the cheeks by moving soft tissues back to where they were earlier. This is achieved by elevating the soft midface tissue from the bone, repositioning it upward towards the eyes, and fixating it in place until it readheres naturally to the bone. This restores cheek volume and establishes more youthful midface contours. The result will be a natural, revitalized appearance that doesn't appear overdone or "pulled".

When performed skillfully, a cheek lift will deliver a natural but noticeable improvement. It is frequently performed with other surgeries, such as a lower face lift, eyelid surgery, or a browlift. However, for many younger patients, under 45 years old, midface suspension is often a standalone procedure.

Am I an ENDOTINE™ cheek lift candidate?

If your cheeks are sagging or have flattened over the years, if your lower eyelids are puffy with dark circles or have "hollowed out", or if your smile lines have deepened, you're probably a good candidate for a midface suspension. Of course the best way to determine if a midface suspension is right for you is by a thorough consultation with your surgeon.

The ENDOTINE™ Midface offers two new approaches to the midface suspension allowing your surgeon to quickly lift and secure tissue at a new, more youthful position. These innovative devices provide your surgeon with a predictable alternative for cheek suspension, enabling shortened procedure time and improved aesthetic outcomes.

How is an ENDOTINE™ cheek lift performed?

During a midface suspension procedure, the surgeon makes small incisions in the area above the ear or the lower eyelid and in some cases, through the underside of the upper lip. A small endoscope and other instruments are introduced through the incisions to lift the delicate midface tissues off the cheekbones. Once lifted, these tissues are repositioned upward (toward the eye) and to the side (toward the ear).

Midface suspension surgery is often performed in officebased surgical suites, and can be done with general anesthesia or with local anesthesia and sedation. Patients typically return home on the same day. Surgical dressings, if used, are removed soon after surgery, and any tissue swelling related to the procedure gradually diminishes.

The ENDOTINE™ cheek lift solution

The ENDOTINE™ Cheek Lift is a new approach that gives your surgeon the ability to easily restore sagging cheek volume to its natural position.

This new approach features the ENDOTINE™ Midface ST and Midface B devices, which has five small tissue holders, or tines, to grasp the cheek tissue gently but securely and elevate it (and all overlying cheek tissue layers) to a new position. In this way, it can reduce the skin irregularities and dimpling that commonly occur when sutures are used. The tines also distribute the tissue forces evenly, minimizing the chance of surgical failure and possible injury caused by sutures.

It typically takes 30 to 60 days for the tissue to reattach to the bone. Once implanted, the device gradually absorbs until it is completely gone. This is an improvement over nonabsorbable sutures, which remain permanently implanted long after they are no longer needed for fixation.

An experienced surgeon can place the ENDOTINE™ Midface device in minutes. This can shorten the length of the procedure by up to 30 to 40 minutes and possibly reduce the swelling associated with more prolonged techniques.

The tips of the tines are rounded to create a gentle grasping surface for the cheek tissue and reduce the chance of discomfort. While patients may feel the tines when they push down on the cheek, there is very little tenderness. Perhaps most importantly, patients report a very high level of satisfaction with their results.

Advantages of an ENDOTINE™ Midface Lift

Excellent aesthetic control of cheek elevation and projection.

Gentle, secure tines distribute tension evenly, reducing skin irregularities caused by sutures.

Rapid deployment reduces the overall procedure time by up to 30 to 40 minutes, which may reduce swelling.

No need for removal, since the ENDOTINE™ Midface device absorbs over time.

What can I expect after surgery?

Immediately after surgery, you will experience some temporary swelling and bruising in your midface region, which may take several weeks to completely resolve. The first night, it's important to rest with your head elevated to decrease swelling and bruising. You can use a cold compress for comfort and to help control swelling. Additionally, pain medication may be prescribed for post-operative pain.

You can usually take a shower within a few days and most patients are ready to return to work in about two weeks. At this point, you may feel the ENDOTINE™ Midface device under the cheek, but it is not likely to be visible. It will become less palpable as it begins to absorb in the months following surgery.

Possible risks associated with the ENDOTINE™ midface lift

Although the ENDOTINE™ Midface devices are designed for midface suspension surgery, it's important to understand that there are potential risks inherent in this (and all) midface suspension procedure(s).

For example, you may experience some initial discomfort, regardless of the method used, and you may be able to feel the ENDOTINE™ Midface device under the cheek skin, which may be sensitive to touch. The ENDOTINE™ Midface device is designed to minimize the risk of injury to bodily structures in the surgical area, although they are at risk with any technique.

Should problems specifically associated with the ENDOTINE™ Midface device occur, you and your surgeon may decide to remove it rather than wait for it to dissolve.

How does the ENDOTINE™ midface lift compare to a barbed-suture lift?

There are a number of differences between a true ENDOTINE™ Midface Lift and a barbed-suture lift. First, with the ENDOTINE™ Midface, the sagging midface tissue is released from the cheek-bone and repositioned at a higher (elevated) level.

A natural healing process ensues that fixes the cheek tissue naturally at this new location. The result is a rounder cheek with more projection which translates to a more youthful appearance. Once healing has occurred, the Midface Device begins to be absorbed naturally by the body.

With barbed suture, there is no release of tissue, instead the suture passed through the cheek's upper tissue layer and then tightened by pulling upward.

Cheek elevation is dependent upon the 'strings' of suture being tied to the temporal area above the ear. Since there has been no movement of the underlying tissue to a new location, the long term results of this surgery has not been established. The suture is permanent, meaning it will remain under the skin until it is removed.

Since the suture is constantly under tension lifting the cheek, it could remain palpable until removed. Once removed, the cheek would return to its original position.

Our services

From your first visit to Aesthetic Plastic Surgery's handsome Harley Street offices, you'll work directly with Consultant Plastic, Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgeon Mr. Lucian Ion, the practice's director.

Together, you'll explore the possibilities and discuss the results you can expect.

Imaging software will be used to show you how you might look after your procedure and every aspect of your treatment, from evaluation through surgery to post surgical care, will be carefully explained.

Mr Lucian ION, FRCS

An experienced aesthetic surgeon, Mr. Ion trained in both Europe and the UK. He received his medical degree from the University of Bucharest and started his general and plastic surgical training in Paris where he studied in several prestigious hospitals.

He continued his training in Britain and passed the examinations to become a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. His advanced training in plastic, reconstructive and aesthetic surgery was completed in central London plastic surgery units covering all the aspects of the specialty. This training included a fellowship in aesthetic surgery at The Wellington Hospital in London.

Once his training was complete, Mr. Ion successfully passed both the Intercollegiate Board exam in plastic surgery and the European Board exam in the specialty, and was included on the Register of Medical Specialists of the General Medical Council, under the entry, plastic surgery.

Mr. Ion is a member of the British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons; the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, and the British Burn Association, as well as an international candidate for the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons.

More information

Naturally, there will be many questions you will want to ask before making any decisions about undergoing surgery. Also you will wish to meet your Surgeon - having trust and confidence in one's Surgeon is very important.

Surgery is unique to every patient and a detailed discussion and assessment between you and your Consulting Surgeon is essential in enabling you to make a decision based on correct personal information and advice.

Arranging a medical consultation does not obligate you to anything other than attending the appointment.

There is no obligation to proceed with treatment. This is entirely a matter for your decision, after the surgeon has decided on the feasibility and accepted you as suitable.

If you would like to know more information we will be happy to answer any queries either by email, letter or telephone, so please do not hesitate to get in touch.