



## Q&A Love your work

People are putty in the hands of 43-year-old plastic surgeon Dr Mark Kohout, who says that for women and men, it's all about the chest.

### Was "plastic surgeon" ever a dirty term?

Yes, plastic surgery was seen in a negative way for a long time. If someone was considering plastic surgery, they were seen as vain and shallow. TV has stimulated the industry and plastic surgery has been demystified. There's now more openness about the subject.

### How much does a person's appearance affect their self-confidence?

People with prominent bat ears who were teased and have always felt self-conscious have much more confidence after the operation. But when people say, "This nose is ruining my life" and it's a damn good nose, then their perception of the problem is out of whack.

**What is the most common procedure for men?**  
Breast reduction – it's an embarrassing condition.  
**And for women?**

Breast enlargement – by far and away.

### How do you construct a perfect pair of breasts?

A lot of women have very nice breasts – symmetrical, shapely, in a good position – they're just small. Getting a good result is relatively easy. If you're not starting off with a good shape, then it's more difficult.

### Have you ever refused any requests?

All the time. There's the plain crazy, like the guy who wanted a zigzag scar on his chest. Then there's the inappropriate, like young women who want breast augmentation two weeks before their wedding.

### You must be skilled at managing expectations.

Yes, with noses in particular. People with injured, bent or large, bulbous noses come in with a photo of Nicole Kidman. I have to say, "You just can't have it."

### Who does everybody want to look like?

Women want Angelina Jolie's lips, Nicole Kidman's nose and Catherine Zeta-Jones's cleavage. *Chris Sheedy*