

## SUMMARY

Facelift surgery will “turn back the clock”, rejuvenating the middle and lower part of the face, making you look fresher and more youthful and relaxed, and feeling more self confident.

North Shore Cosmetic Surgery is a group of Plastic Surgeons dedicated to providing a high standard of service to the North Shore.

All members are Fellows of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons, Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons and Australian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, and have been trained to the highest possible standards.



North Shore Cosmetic Surgery provides a comprehensive range of cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery procedures, as well as a full range of ancillary treatments.

## PRACTICE LOCATIONS

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North Shore  Cosmetic Surgery

A patient guide  
to understanding

Facelifts

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## INTRODUCTION

With ageing the skin, fat, and muscles of the cheeks and neck become loose and sag, resulting in lines and folds between the cheeks and lips, over the jawline, and in the neck. Facelift surgery “turns back the clock“, improving the visible signs of ageing by removing excess skin and fat and tightening the underlying muscles of the face and neck. It rejuvenates the middle and lower part of the face and improves the jawline, making you look fresher and more youthful and relaxed, and feeling more self confident.

Facelifts are often combined with other procedures such as a browlift (to lift sagging eyebrows) or blepharoplasty (eyelid surgery to remove skin or fat) to rejuvenate the upper part of the face and around the eyes.

If you only have a small amount of loose skin, or if you do not wish to have surgery, there are other non-surgical options such as suture lifts or Titan™ non-ablative laser skin tightening which can improve your areas of concern.

Many people also benefit from facial skin rejuvenation with non-surgical treatments such as chemical peels or IPL (intense pulse light), which improve the texture and appearance of the skin.

## PREPARING FOR THE SURGERY

It is important to stop smoking at least 6 weeks before the surgery – smoking slows blood flow to the skin and increases the chance of healing problems after the surgery. Aspirin, anti-inflammatory medications for arthritis, and some vitamins and herbal medications can cause bleeding and also need to be stopped 10 days before the surgery.

## THE SURGERY

Facelift surgery is performed under general anaesthesia, with the operation taking about 3 hours, and usually requires an overnight stay in hospital.

There are many different types of facelift, but the longest lasting techniques involve tightening the deeper muscle layer of the face as well as the skin. Tightening the muscle layer gives a longer lasting result and reduces the tension on the skin closure, producing better scars.

Incisions are hidden mainly within the hairline, starting in the natural crease in front of the ear, going under and behind the earlobe and back into the scalp, and usually there is also a small

incision under the chin. The muscle layer is tightened, with any excess fat being removed, and the loose excess skin is then removed and the wound closed.

## AFTER THE SURGERY

After the surgery it is important to rest and minimize activity, with no lifting, driving, or heavy duties for 10-14 days.

There is always some bruising and swelling after the surgery, however wearing an elastic compression garment for 7-10 days minimises this. After a few days you can wear makeup to help conceal the bruising. You will have some numbness and tightness, which gradually disappears over a few weeks. The scars from the surgery fade with time and are usually not noticeable, although occasionally they require further treatment.

Most patients may drive again and return to work within 2 weeks after the surgery, but heavy activities and sport should not be undertaken for one month.

