

SAVING FACE

With an integrative and highly specialized approach to facial plastic and reconstructive surgery, **Jean-Paul Azzi, M.D.**, restores and maintains youth.

Double board-certified facial and reconstructive surgeon Jean-Paul Azzi, M.D., focuses his approach at The Palm Beach Center for Facial Plastic & Laser Surgery on what he does best. By working exclusively on the face, nose, and neck, he not only stands out as South Florida's go-to facial plastic surgeon, but as a leading expert in the industry. Here, he answers some of the most common questions regarding his work.

What is your philosophy concerning plastic surgery?

My philosophy as a surgeon is to operate only where I'm specialized so that I can be on the cutting edge. I work exclusively above the clavicle, which allows me to be at the forefront of the specialty, developing new approaches that are more natural, safer, and longer lasting than dated practices.

How do you address the aging process?

I believe the best way to address aging is by finding the cause and providing a natural solution. Jowls sag because of gravity, so we should lift them with a gravity-based solution. If someone loses volume in their face, the problem requires a volume solution to make it look natural. That artificial, overdone appearance some think of regarding plastic surgery comes when trying to fix a problem with the wrong solution, such as injecting fillers to solve a gravity problem.

Talk about your deep-plane facelift.

This is a modern, cutting-edge procedure developed while I was in Manhattan for my residency. I take a thin sheet of muscle in the face and re-suspend it into place. I can pad the cheeks and repair the bands in



the neck that have split. I'm not just pulling skin tightly and sewing it back together; I'm repairing the underlying structural elements that have aged. Very few surgeons are specialized in this technique, which brings people from around the world to my practice. My patients also love that I don't use general anesthesia; they remain awake during the whole procedure.

What makes your facelift results last?

Gravity causes the heavier structures of the face—like muscles and tissues—to sag over time. My technique allows me to lift the entire face, rather than simply stretching the skin over drooping facial structures, which would result in a very tight, wind-swept look. I go underneath the skin and reposition the structures back to where they were at an earlier point in life. Patients can feel the years being taken off their faces.

How are you able to use your abilities to give back?

I believe it's important to use your talents to help those in need. I travel with two groups to underprivileged countries where many

children are born with congenital deformities such as missing ears and cleft lips. During a trip to Guatemala, I remember seeing a mother in tears after I was able to fix her baby's bilateral cleft lip within an hour. The operation was life-changing for the family; seeing their gratitude was life-changing for me.



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