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KEEPING A PROPER EYE ON EYELID SURGERY CANDIDATES

These days blepharoplasty, or eyelid surgery, is a common procedure. During his more than 20 years in practice, Mokhtar Asaadi, MD, a board-certified plastic and reconstructive surgeon, and past chairman of the department of plastic surgery at Saint Barnabas Medical Center, has done thousands of intricate cosmetic procedures. Yet, surprisingly, he says that a plastic surgeon's recurring problem lies in identifying those eyelid surgery candidates with negative vector profiles.

Dr. Asaadi, the inventor of a plastic surgery facial-analysis system designed to help doctors diagnose which procedures will do their patients the most good, explains, "People who have a negative vector, a profile where the front of the eyes is more prominent than the cheekbones, could have real problems if their doctors perform a blepharoplasty in a traditional manner. It's a very tricky case, and if your surgeon uses the wrong approach you can get the worst result you could ever imagine." Many excellent surgeons can easily fall into the trap of missing a diagnosis of proptosis, or bulging eyes, an indicator of a negative vector.



*Mokhtar Asaadi, M.D., F.A.C.S., P.A., member of
American Society of Plastic Surgeons and The
American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery*

Visually, it may appear that these people have loose eyelid skin, but that's merely an optical illusion. To get the best results patients with negative vectors require a type of eyelid procedure called transconjunctival blepharoplasty. With this procedure the surgeon removes excess fat from the inside of the lower eyelid. "Then by going through the upper eyelid, I'll further tighten the lateral part of the lower eyelid by canthopexy without removing any skin from it," says Dr. Asaadi. The results should make your eyes dance.