A Conservative Approach to Rhinoplasty

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Abstract. When a rhinoplasty is performed, one must keep in mind that the nose is a part of a whole structure, the face. In the ideal nose operation all the components of the nose are well balanced among themselves and the nose itself is a harmonic part of the face. The present article briefly reports on how the different excisions of a rhinoplasty should be done to get a well-balanced nose. The objective of the presentation is to emphasize how only a very small amount of osteocartilaginous framework can be removed to obtain a very satisfactory result. The most caudal portion of the septum is almost never removed and the tip elevation is achieved with a logical excision of both lower and upper lateral cartilages. Wedges from the alae are seldom excised, producing a more natural looking nose. In summary, we try to achieve better appearing noses that do not look operated on.

Key words: Nose rhinoplasty

Rhinoplasty is an operation frequently performed in aesthetic surgery to improve the form and function of the nose.

It is well known that even with a considerable amount of care and experience, the results of rhinoplasty may still not be entirely satisfactory. The concept of beauty may be different for each person, and the surgeon should be able to achieve technically what he thinks is right for each patient and adapt his surgical procedures to the problems presented by the individual’s nasal characteristics. When a rhinoplasty is performed, one must keep in mind that the nose is a part of a whole structure, the face. In the ideal nose operation all the components of the nose are well balanced among themselves, and the nose itself becomes a harmonic part of the face [1, 2].
The present tendency of many surgeons is or should be more conservative in the amount of tissue removed in a rhinoplasty. The final result is more satisfactory when an operated on nose has a more natural look.

The present article briefly reports on how the different excisions of a rhinoplasty should be done to get a well-balanced nose.

The object of the presentation is to emphasize how a very small amount of osteocartilaginous framework can be removed to obtain a very satisfactory result.

A careful preoperative study of each part of the nose and its proportions with the other facial structures is done on each patient.

After the initial usual operative steps including undermining carried out by the classic intercartilaginous approach, the bony hump is reduced with a chisel, its edges are smoothed with a rasp, and the cartilaginous portion is removed with a #11 scalpel blade under direct vision. This excision should be done only to get a lower but straight nasal profile.

The bridge is narrowed only with an infracture of the nasal processes, using a guarded chisel at the proper level.

Fig. 1A, B, and C. Young girl; preoperative and postoperative views