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MALAR IMPLANTS **Cheekbone Augmentation**

Notes for Guidance

The height and projection of the cheekbones can be altered by the insertion of silicone implants, collagen injections and autologous fat implants. Cheek implants can improve facial harmony by giving greater definition to the cheekbones.

We are fortunate to have a self-imaging computer at your disposal during your consultation allowing us to project your area(s) of concern on the screen. Various options of structure change can be added or erased! This is a wonderful opportunity to get an "idea" of how cheek implants would harmonise your facial structure.

Cheek implants are silicone plastic shapes designed to rest on the patient's own cheekbones. These are usually inserted via a small incision inside the mouth. There is therefore no visible external scarring.

Collagen injections can be used if a small increase is required. Unfortunately collagen is gradually absorbed by the body and top-up injections will be necessary at intervals.

With autologous fat implants, the patient's own fat can be used to augment the cheek. The donor fat can be taken from the abdomen, thigh, neck, etc. and injected through a wide bore needle into the cheek area. This procedure is not permanent but seems to last longer

than collagen.

Post-operative problems are uncommon, but the following complications can occur. A full discussion with your consulting surgeon is advised. Cheek implants can move out of position to give an asymmetrical appearance to the face. This is more likely to happen during the early post-operative phase. Infection can also occur in the post-operative period. The implant has to be removed and the infection effectively treated before re-insertion.

Finally, cheek implants can produce a dramatic improvement in suitable cases and the result is permanent. Higher cheekbones tend to make people more photogenic. Collagen injections and fat transfer produce more subtle effects that slowly change back with time unless kept 'topped-up'.

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This leaflet has been prepared to give a basic understanding of the procedure before a consultation takes place, and to cover many of the questions frequently asked about this type of cosmetic surgery. Final decisions should not be made until an individual assessment has taken place with the surgeon. There is no obligation on the part of the patient to undergo surgery by attending for consultation. If you have any further questions or would like to arrange a consultation please do not hesitate to call us.