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# Cosmetic Perfectionists

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Clearly, women who are considering plastic surgery are dissatisfied with some aspect of their appearance—but does that mean they're pursuing physical perfection? In three studies involving 1,332 subjects, Canadian and Israeli scientists found a significant correlation between thoughts of getting a cosmetic procedure and measures of perfectionism—particularly a certain type of it. Among various groups of women surveyed by Simon B. Sherry of the University of Saskatchewan and other researchers, 34 percent of gymgoers and 37 percent of college students said they had contemplated plastic surgery. Results of perfectionism questionnaires showed that this desire was directly linked not to high standards for oneself, but rather to the desire to look flawless to others—to conceal imperfections from people and live up to their perceived expectations. (This was especially true for the gym-goers.) For those who do decide to get a procedure, this motivation could result in unrealistic hopes and dissatisfaction even after "an aesthetically successful surgery," the researchers note.

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