



Sub-anchor: China is now 3rd largest plastic surgery market globally

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Now for more on China's booming plastic surgery sector, we are joined in the studio by our reporter Wu Haojun.

Q1. More and more Chinese are now going under the knife for better or worse, but who are those people and what do they want changed?

Times have certainly changed now for some people, plastic surgery is a legitimate request for a high school graduation gift. The International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery estimated in 2009 that China ranks third, behind the US and Brazil, on the number of operations performed annually.

And when you look closer at the data, it reveals some fascinating information. The most popular plastic surgery procedures in the US are breast augmentations and liposuction here in China, it's a different story. The Chinese Association of Plastics and Aesthetics says the Number 1 operation in the country is double eyelid surgery, followed by a nose-job.

But it's the opposite of the typical nose job in the West. The third most popular procedure is the re-shaping of the jaw to make it narrower and longer. And the demographics are changing actors, dancers and other members of the performing arts used to be the main recipients of plastic surgery, but now we are looking at students who want plastic surgery as a graduation gift and young people who want help with their career and dating chances.

Q2. Just walk along the streets of the Chinese capital and you will get an idea that the plastic surgery field has really mushroomed in China over the years. What kind of a scale are we looking at now?

People's desire to get double eyelids and nose jobs has grown with the size of their wallets. It's estimated that China's plastic surgery sector is now a 450 billion yuan industry. By 2013, a total of 4.8 million cosmetic procedures, both surgical and non-surgical, had been performed in China. And that number is expected to top 10 million by 2018.

With that kind of exponential growth, it's no surprise that government regulations have lagged behind and there's been a sizable increase in the number of related disputes. There aren't official statistics on the number of disputes, but there's no shortage of examples of what can go wrong. Singer Wang Bei died during plastic surgery back in 2010. She was just 24 years old. And then there's the self-proclaimed plastic surgery addict Wang Baobao who didn't know when to stop and underwent more than 170 operations in the span of a decade. Doctors and experts alike warn that plastic surgery is still surgery. There are very real risks involved, but for many people the desire for beauty trumps all.

