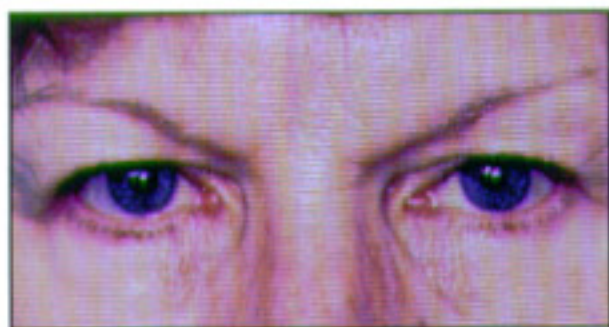


# What's New in Facial Plastic Surgery

## *Winning Combinations*

By Thomas Funcik, M.D.

It takes versatility and adaptability to come up with a winning combination — in sports, cooking, even in facial plastic surgery. Often patients come in for a consultation and ask for a specific procedure, for example laser surgery, when it is actually a variation or combination of procedures that are needed to give them the results they seek.



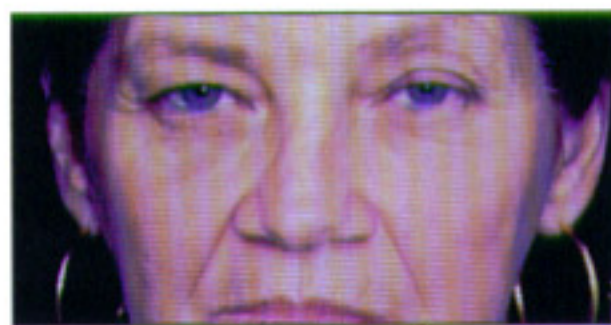
*Preoperative patient has dissatisfaction with appearance of skin around eyes.*



*Postoperative eyelid surgery and chemical peel.*

In this first case, the patient came to my office interested in laser surgery. She felt the reason she looked tired and older than she felt was due to the crepe-paper appearance of the skin of her lower lids, which appeared even more pronounced when makeup was applied. After spending a relaxed consultation

time with her, we learned she was really seeking improvement in the puffiness in her lower lids, the baggy skin on her upper lids, and the crow's feet and wrinkles on the outer aspects of her eyes. Laser alone would not achieve this result. A combination of treatments — upper and lower eyelid surgery with a chemical peel around her eyes — was used to give her the exact results she desired.



*Preoperative patient has dissatisfaction with uneven eyelids.*



*Postoperative browlift and eyelid surgery.*

Here is another example. This woman was concerned about the uneven appearance of her eyelids and the excess skin in her upper and lower eyelids. A combination of a browlift and upper and lower eyelids surgery was designed to meet these goals.

The best way to come up with a winning combination is to educate yourself on the options available to you. First, do a careful analysis of what bothers you, and bring these observations to at least two trusted plastic surgeons. There are many excellent surgeons in the area. You should feel comfortable with and confident about your doctor after your initial interview. The surgeon should be able to present a variety of photos of other patients on which he has performed the procedure you are considering. Such photos will give you a greater understanding of the results achieved by cosmetic surgery. Meeting with other patients who have had the same procedures can also be helpful. Most surgeons will be happy to provide you with the names of other patients who have volunteered to speak with prospective patients.

Another helpful tool is the computer imager. This innovation greatly enhances a patient's ability to preview their post-surgical appearance. By capturing an image of your face on the screen and then altering it using computer technology, your surgeon can demonstrate the changes that can be accomplished.

By careful observation, educating yourself about various options, and selecting a competent, caring surgeon, you too can come up with a winning combination.

*East Cooper Magazine and Southern Woman to Woman* introduce a new column in this issue, written by Dr. Thomas Funcik, M.D., a facial plastic surgeon with Coastal Facial Plastic Surgery in Mt. Pleasant. Dr. Funcik is one of only a few local surgeons who is a member of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, specializing in plastic and reconstructive surgery of the face. In addition to his private practice, Dr. Funcik is active in research and lectures, has authored numerous scientific publications, and is involved in training residents of the Medical University of South Carolina. For further information, please call (803) 884-3277.

