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Board Certified: What does it mean?

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Board Certified, American Board of Plastic Surgery

Be careful when you see the words, "Board Certified." Most people don't know that there are many "boards" out there. It should mean that your doctor has gone through a qualified medical school, a certified residency program AND passed the written and verbal testing required.

Only certain "boards" are recognized by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the body charged to approve Boards in the United States.

There is only one board credited by ACGME to perform cosmetic procedures: the American Board of Plastic Surgery. Most doctors who say they are "Board Certified" are certified by another board that may have nothing to do with cosmetic operations or are certified by boards NOT accredited by ACGME.

Only your Plastic Surgeon is trained to evaluate you as a complete person, rather than a simple problem or condition. Make sure your doctor has been trained in Plastic Surgery and make sure you see the certificate of board certification from the American Board of Plastic Surgery. If the physician doesn't have it, he or she isn't a Plastic Surgeon. PERIOD.

Websites that can help with this are www.plasticsurgery.org and www.acgme.org.

