Plastic Surgery in Adolescence

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Objectives

- Highlight adolescent problems often referred to or seen by plastic surgeons
- Discuss indications, contraindications and timing of surgical management
- To present case studies and realistic expectations
Adolescence

- Transition from childhood to adulthood
- Physical and emotional growth
- Increased awareness of body image
- Significant peer pressure and vulnerability to the same
Common Plastic Surgery Encounters

- Facial problems: Nose, jaws, ears, neck
- Skin: Acne scars
- Trunk: Pectus deformities
- Male Breast: Gynecomastia
- Female Breast: Hypertrophy, Poland Syndrome, underdevelopment, tuberous deformity, ptosis, asymmetry, supernumerary nipple/areola or breast complexes
Jaws

- Orthodontic evaluation and treatment
- Orthognathic surgery
- Always assess the neck
Rhinoplasty

- After full development
- Must be individualized
- Always look at the chin and the airway
- Functional problems can be treated simultaneously
Ear Deformities

- Prominent ears
- Cup and other deformities
- Should be treated in the preschool period, but often seen afterwards
Pectus Deformities

- Pectus Excavatum: Cosmetic and often functional
- Treated in childhood, but sometimes in adolescence
- Pectus Carinatum: mostly cosmetic
Gynecomastia

Causes:

- Idiopathic
- Obesity
- Physiologic: Birth, puberty, old age
- Endocrine: Testis, adrenals, thyroid, pituitary
- Neoplastic: Testis, adrenal, pituitary, bronchogenic
Gynecomastia

- **Systemic Diseases:**
  - Renal failure, cirrhosis, adrenal, malnutrition

- **Drug Induced:**
  - Estrogens, androgens, antiandrogens (spironolactone, cimetidine, ketoconazole, ranitidine, flutamide)
  - Cardiovascular drugs (amiodarone, digoxin, nifedipine, reserpine, verapamil)
  - Abused drugs: Alcohol, heroin, marijuana
Gynecomastia Management

- History and Physical
- Specific work up if indicated
- Surgery: At least one year after puberty
- Methods: Suction Assisted Lipectomy or subcutaneous mastectomy, with or without skin reduction
- Delayed skin reduction preferred
Breast Developmental Deformities

- Underdevelopment
- Ptosis
- Tuberous deformity
- Asymmetry
- Milk line abnormalities
Virginal Mammary Hypertrophy

- Major Functional and Emotional Problems
- Treated once development is complete but sometimes earlier
- Breast Reduction with functional preservation
Summary

- Adolescence presents a unique set of clinical problems for both genders.
- Physical and emotional maturity is a major factor in decision making.
- Beware of treating the parents rather than the patient.
- Timely appropriate treatment can be rewarding, and may prevent permanent emotional scars.
Thank you

Questions?