

ASK THE EYE EXPERT



Face Forward

The ability to brighten up everyone's face when you enter a room is a trait that most people yearn for. For Dr. Rami Batniji, it is literally his defining nature. While his down-to-earth personality undoubtedly makes you laugh and feel like the center of attention, his expert hands have the power to perfect. His astounding credentials, unmatched precision, and downright expertise (not to mention his debonair style, a rarity among medical egos), Dr. Batniji is the up-and-coming facial plastic surgery specialists in Orange County. But don't take our word for it; let the master crafter tell you himself.

“Facial plastic surgery is an art, a science, and most importantly, a passion that I enjoy sharing with my patients.”

—Dr. Rami Batniji

Q&A WITH AN EXPERT

OC HEALTH INTERVIEWS THE M.C. OF OC – THE MASTER CRAFTER, THAT IS – DR. RAMI K. BATNIJI, FACIAL PLASTIC SURGEON.

What can we do to naturally preserve the youthful integrity of our skin?

We strongly believe in a proper skin care program to help maintain surgical results. Above all, we emphasize the importance of sun block to minimize sun damage, such as wrinkles, splotchy pigmentation and facial skin cancer.

What inspired and motivated you to become one of the young, up-and-coming facial surgeons in Southern California?

My father is an Otolaryngologist (Ear, Nose, and Throat — Head and Neck Surgeon). Growing up in San Marino, I noticed how much he enjoyed his interactions with patients. My parents advised me to pursue a career that I enjoyed passionately. My father emphasized the philosophy of medicine as a lifelong pursuit, staying abreast of advances in one's field, maintaining meticulous attention to detail, and caring for my patients thoroughly and compassionately.

How has facial plastic surgery evolved in the past few years?

Our surgical approaches to the lower eyelid/cheek complex and rhinoplasty (nose surgery) have matured.

What is your favorite aspect of your career?

I love the interaction with my patients.

What is your alternative occupation?

A professor of history - I majored in history at Williams College.

What passions and hobbies do you have outside of surgery?

Family, friends and travel, skiing and playing golf.

What attracted you to specialize in facial plastic surgery?

During my residency training in Otolaryngology, we performed many facial plastic and reconstructive surgical procedures. I was fascinated with the intricate anatomy of the face, head and neck as well as the attention to detail required in facial surgery.

Are there natural or alternative components to your field? What about the advances in noninvasive facial rejuvenation?

We incorporate alternative therapies in our treatment plan. And while advances continue in laser technology, injectable fillers, and other less invasive treatment options, there will always be a role for facial plastic surgical procedures, which also continue to evolve toward less invasive methods with minimal downtime, providing longer lasting and more natural results.

LOWER EYELID BLEPHAROPLASTY WITH FAT TRANSPOSITION

Fullness and laxity of the lower eyelid imparts a tired look. Previous treatment involved removal of fat and excess skin from the lower eyelid to provide a more youthful appearance. However, a paradigm shift is occurring in facial plastic surgery. We now understand that the lower eyelid/cheek complex loses volume and that cheek tissues descent with age. Juxtaposed, these changes result in hollowness between the lower eyelid and cheek. Therefore, I perform a lower eyelid blepharoplasty, which not only removes excess skin from the lower eyelid, but repositions the lower eyelid fat from the area of fullness into the hollow region. At the same time, I perform a cheek lift to address the descent of the cheek tissues. Finally, I may incorporate skin resurfacing to correct discoloration of the lower lid. This results in a smooth, more youthful contour of the lower eyelid/cheek complex.

(Dr. Batniji was invited to lecture on this topic at the Winter Symposium on the Latest Advances in Facial Plastic Surgery in January 2008, a meeting sponsored by the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (AAFPRS; www.aafprs.org.)

RHINOPLASTY PHILOSOPHY

Previously, rhinoplasty incorporated removal of cartilage from the nose to achieve tip definition. While this provided a nice result initially, the loss of structural framework to the nose eventually resulted in collapse, nasal obstruction, and an unnatural "operated" appearance. Thus, we take cartilage from the septum and place this cartilage in specific areas of the nose to provide a natural appearance. This enables the nose to fit the face, and provides an improved nasal airway.

MENU OF SERVICES OFFERED

BY DR. BATNIJI:

- Surgical procedures
- Eyelid surgery
- Forehead/brow lift
- Facelift
- Necklift
- Midface/cheek lift
- Rhinoplasty (nose reshaping)
- Chin implants
- Lip reshaping
- Otoplasty (ear reshaping)
- Non-surgical procedures
- Skin resurfacing
- Laser treatments
- Dermabrasion
- Acne treatments
- Injections (Botox, Restylane, Juvederm, Radiesse, Sculptra)

YOUR DOCTOR

Dr. Rami K. Batniji, M.D.

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DID YOU KNOW?

In their April 2008 issue, W Magazine named Dr. Rami K. Batniji one of Orange County's top up-and-coming facial plastic surgeons. The article is on page 150 in W Magazine's April 2008 issue.

Q: What myths or misconceptions are there about your field and what is the truth behind them?

Facelifts result in an unnatural, "windblown," expressionless appearance. There are several key factors in performing a facelift and attention to detail is paramount in achieving a long lasting, natural result.

Overall eye shape changes after eyelid surgery. The incisions in eyelid surgery are well hidden through strategic placement. The result is a more youthful appearance while preserving the natural shape of the eye.

Recovery is painful and long. We follow our patients closely throughout the immediate postoperative period, providing several treatments to expedite the healing process.