

ADDICTION TO COSMETIC SURGERY: TOWARD A PSYCHOSOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

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Conceived as a soft and modifiable body, we are witnessing an unprecedented raise in the recourse of plastic surgery that has become a normative social condition. It is not only a physical body issue as such, it is a social one as well. Physical, because plastic surgery allows to modify the external and visible (face, breast, legs, nose, etc.); social because it proposes a social model of the ideal body that goes beyond the one inherited by the biological parents. While a majority of people can have a "legitimate" reason to have a plastic surgery, others can develop an abusive relation to their body image, an addiction. How can we explain the extraordinary resort to plastic surgery as a socially acceptable behaviour, more desirable? How does a psychosocial condition passes from a social status to a medical one? To these questions, and based on a scientific review of the literature, we propose a psychosocial perspective of the addiction phenomenon in order to identify the main markers and some paths of intervention

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