



Profile
cosmetic surgery

buccal fat *excision*

When considering cosmetic surgery, it is important that you are fully informed on all aspects of the procedure that you are seeking.

What is buccal fat excision?

This is indicated in young patients who have round full cheeks. Reduction of this fat helps to highlight the cheek bones (malar eminence).

This operation is rarely employed as a general tool of facial rejuvenation because as people age they tend to lose fat in the face. Consequently removal of buccal fat will increase the gaunt appearance of the lower face, if undertaken in older patients.

Buccal fat lies deeply within the cheeks i.e. between them and the molar teeth.

Access to the fat is achieved through an incision far back inside the mouth (intraoral approach), which has the advantage of concealed scars. Small branches of the facial nerve (responsible for moving the mouth region) may be at risk, but since the dissection is carried bluntly, the risk is minimal. The wounds are closed with absorbable sutures.

Post-operatively, no dressings are required. Initially drinking is encouraged through a straw but after 24hrs normal feeding can be resumed.