



Everything You Need to Know About Plastic Surgery Consultation Fees

Melanie Rud • Jul 15, 2024



For the majority of those considering plastic surgery, cost is an undeniably important factor. But it's not just the cost of the treatment itself that's important to take into consideration. Consultation fees are an industry norm, oftentimes considered an entrance fee of sorts. "Patients are coming in for a medical opinion about a medical procedure. The consultation fee is, essentially, payment for the doctor's time and expertise," says New York City board-certified dermatologist [Dr. Paul Jarrod Frank](#).

But exactly how much should you expect to pay? And what happens if you decide to *not* move forward with the surgery (or provider) you were

considering? Here, answers to these questions, plus more insider info about consultation fees—from top doctors themselves.

Featured Experts

[Dr. Paul Jarrod Frank](#), a board-certified dermatologist in New York City

Expect to always pay a consultation fee

There's really no way around it: "Consultation fees are standard across the board, for any type of established doctor or practice," [Dr. Frank](#) points out. Some med spas and doctors who are just starting their careers may not charge them—though, according to [Dr. Frank](#), that's actually a bit of a red flag.

Exactly how much that consultation fee will cost can vary greatly, depending on where you live and the particular doctor you're seeing. And, FYI, many practices will ask that you pay said fee when you book the appointment, [Dr. Frank](#) notes.

Consultation fees are typically applied as a credit toward treatment

Both doctors we spoke with say that more often than not, the consultation fee is applied toward the cost of the procedure or surgery. But what if you decide not to move forward with the doctor or treatment? The majority of doctors and practices will let you put the consult fee toward another type of service offered in their office. It's also worth asking if there's a time span during which you need to complete the treatment post-consult. For example, in [Dr. Frank](#)'s office, there's a six-month window.

Can't pay? Ask about other options before you meet with the doctor

Dr. Frank says that asking if there's any type of tiered pricing system available is another option. Typically, the most seasoned doctors will be the most expensive, whereas associates or nurses charge less, he notes. (That being said, this only works if you're considering a nonsurgical treatment. For plastic surgery, you'll want to meet with the person actually performing the operation.)

Go prepared to get the most bang for your buck

But along with specific questions, it's also important to use the consultation as a time to get a general feel for your doctor and their demeanor and personality. "You're about to spend a lot of money to have something done on your face and/or body, and you want to have a good sense of the person who will be doing that," notes **Dr. Frank**.