

## Cindy's surgery nightmare

All around the world, people have cosmetic surgery in the hope of improving their appearance. In Asia, going under the knife for an artificial double eyelid is not uncommon, and many patients are satisfied with the results of their surgery. There are many more, however, who do not have a positive experience. Cindy Lu was one of those people.

5 “I really wanted to have a double eyelid operation. I learned a lot about it by reading about other people’s experiences online. In fact, I read some terrible stories where the results were very upsetting. However, these stories did not worry me very much. It seemed the patients had had the operation performed by beauticians without proper medical training. I thought I could avoid the same fate by having the operation performed by a trained surgeon.”

10 “When we met, my surgeon explained the procedure and the post-surgery symptoms. These included double vision, puffy and numb eyelids, swelling and bruising, as well as pain. I experienced all of these, and once the swelling went down I noticed that my eyelids were asymmetrical – one looked higher than the other. I was confused and saddened by what had happened and asked my surgeon for advice. He told me that this, while unfortunate, does occasionally happen. His solution was a second operation to correct  
15 the problem.”

“I didn’t want to go back under the knife, but I was under a lot of stress after the first operation. I didn’t want to speak to my parents. They had been against the surgery from the beginning, calling it “unnecessary”. I knew they didn’t want me to have the second operation. I felt very alone. I wanted to tell my friends what had happened, but I was too ashamed. I wanted to feel normal again, and I wanted my  
20 life back. That was why I decided to have the second operation.”

“Looking back, I think my biggest mistake was wanting the surgery so much that I didn’t want to know about the dangers. The warnings were right under my nose, but I didn’t care. Now, I want to share my experience with other people so that they don’t make the same mistake. My advice is: read about the surgery, understand the consequences, and choose your surgeon very carefully. Thankfully, my second  
25 operation was a success, but if I could turn back the clock I would choose not to have the surgery in the first place.”

**1 Read the text and answer the questions.**

- 1 In line 8, *avoid the same fate* means ...
  - a have the operation done by beauticians.
  - b not have an upsetting result.
  - c not have an operation.
- 2 In line 10, *post-surgery symptoms* refers to ...
  - a the signs or conditions which people have after the surgery.
  - b the medication that people take after the surgery.
  - c the procedures of the surgery.
- 3 In line 11, *double vision* means ...
  - a seeing two of everything.
  - b seeing things doubled in size.
  - c improved vision.
- 4 In line 11, *swelling* means ...
  - a some of the post-surgery symptoms can be avoided.
  - b the eyelids will be painful.
  - c the eyelids will look bigger than usual.
- 5 In line 14, *while* is like ...
  - a and.
  - b although.
  - c because.
- 6 In lines 14 and 15, *correct the problem* means ...
  - a make the eyelids symmetrical again.
  - b go from double eyelids back to single eyelids.
  - c use another surgeon.
- 7 In line 22, *right under my nose* means ...
  - a obvious.
  - b unclear.
  - c scary.

- 8** In line 24, *understand the consequences* means ...
- a** be aware that the results may not be what you expect.
  - b** know that you will probably need more than one operation.
  - c** believe that being beautiful is very important.
- 9** Cindy's parents ...
- a** supported her decision to have the first operation.
  - b** felt that she didn't need any of the surgery.
  - c** were too upset to speak to her.
- 10** In the last paragraph, Cindy believes that ...
- a** people should stop having cosmetic surgery.
  - b** choosing the right surgeon is the most important step.
  - c** people should understand the dangers before having cosmetic surgery.

**2 Talk to a partner and answer the questions.**

- a** Would you ever have cosmetic surgery?
- b** Why do you think some people get addicted to cosmetic surgery?
- c** Why do you think cosmetic surgery is more popular in some countries than others?