

# Are Women's Opinions on Plastic Surgery Influenced by Age? PSY 4370 – Psychology of Aging Capstone (Spring 2021) By: Hannah Westerbeck

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### **Abstract**

The study focus is to gather opinions about plastic surgery procedures as women age. The study is important to predict increases in plastic surgery acceptance. The participants involve 50 women's feedback regarding plastic surgery procedures including their generational information. The participants are 25 women under the age of 40 and 25 women over the age of 40. The study introduces a survey of approximately 5-10 questions regarding women's acceptance of plastic surgery as well as their age. Participants will access the survey at a local gym. There will be a \$20 raffle for the participants. It's expected women under the age of 40 will be more accepting to the idea of procedures. It's predicted that women over the age will be more reserved about the idea of procedures.

### Introduction

Is a women's acceptance for plastic surgery affected by the women's age? How much of the women's acceptance is influenced by different factors other than age? This study is created by using a survey to ask women's personal opinions on whether they would get plastic surgery procedures based on their age. The reasoning for this survey is to be able to gather information on whether the number of procedures is higher based on an age under or over forty, in order to be able to track spikes in future plastic surgery rates. The goal is to predict whether women's acceptance for plastic surgery procedures, by preventing or reversing natural aging by pursuing plastic surgery procedures, is influenced higher at a young age or an age over 40. The survey being used was created in order to be able to collect data from women who attended a local gym in the Dayton area. The survey was a series of questions about the women's age and whether their age influences their decision on pursuing plastic surgery procedures. The women were asked a series of approximately 5-10 questions that will collect women's opinions. The participants will not provide any personal information besides their answers to the survey questions. The survey data will be compared in order to see if other age groups are more influenced to pursue surgical procedures by age than other participants. The survey will be given to participants at the local gym until 25 women under the age or 40 and 25 women over the age of 40 are able to complete the survey.

Further backing for this research survey was influenced by plastic surgeons discussing similar topics on the age groups they treat the most for procedures. For example, one article published data behind other factors that lead to women choosing plastic surgery procedures for a younger appearance. To discuss further, one's image is influenced by social status, low or high self-esteem or choosing a different career Hass (2021). Hass goes further into detail discussing the percentages of women's magazines that are shaped around nothing but one's body image. Hass also discussed the 457% increase in plastic surgery procedures since 1997.

Another article published discussed the topic above, for whether the influences or psychosocial predictors and factors that women considered before seeking a procedure of altering their appearance were influenced by age. The article talked about the factors of influence that were associated with plastic surgery procedures as well as negative feelings towards the topic. Although this survey was completed in Italy, the publishers discussed the internalized pressure women feel the need to overcome from the media, peer influence and peer attributes in order to fill a standard image Matera, Nerini and Stefanile (2021). The data showed women chose plastic surgery procedures after a consideration process of benefits and doubts. Women chose the procedures in order to stop aging over any other possible influence.

Women have several influences on why a woman would choose to pursue plastic surgery procedures for themselves. Women often have internalized issues that need to be considered but aren't mentioned in the public as a self-conscious feature. For example, many insecurities women openly discuss could easily be changed if the person desired to pursue the option. Body dissatisfaction was an influencer along with aging for women as Slevec and Tiggemann (2021) discussed in their article. To go further into detail, the authors also continued to mention many more predictors as to what influenced women under and over the age of 40 to pursue plastic surgery procedures to slow the natural process of ageing besides aging. Women over the age of 40 were more influenced to pursue plastic surgery procedures because of aging than any other influence.



# **Predicted Results**

This proposed experiment will elicit reliable results and provide information on the whether women have predicting factors on whether to pursue plastic surgery procedures by age. The sample of 50 women participants are representative of a population of women who are inclined with plastic surgery procedures. By selecting women within an age bracket for the study, a small variety of participants will be used. This will allow the findings to be generalized to the best of their ability for the topic.

Independent Data will be used to compare age with attitudes towards plastic surgery procedures. The responses of the participants will be quantified, as explained earlier, and this will provide the necessary ratio data to run a total of two tests for the age groups. This will be carried out utilizing Independent Samples T-test. This will elicit a coefficient (r) and indicate the amount of the agreement between the age range of the individuals and their attitude towards plastic surgery procedures. It is predicted that women over the age of 40 will have supportive feelings regarding plastic surgery procedures and that younger individuals will have a predominantly negative view of plastic surgery procedures. The former would be indicated by a strong correlation, and the latter by a strong positive correlation. Alternatively, the older population may consist of enough individuals towards the "younger" side of the cutoff and elicit results like that of the younger age groups. In other words, if the hypothesis is correct, and more individuals in the older age group, over the age of 40 but not much older than that, then more positive comments and attitudes towards plastic surgery procedures may be present.



## **Methods**

# **Participants**

For the proposed study, 50 women will be used from the Dayton area to answer questions regarding their attitudes towards plastic surgery procedures. Their primary incentive for participating is to participate in a chance to win \$20. The variables under examination are the age of the participants and whether the women support plastic surgery procedures. There will be two age groups. The first will consist of individuals 18-39 years old and the second will be over 40 years old. There will be 25 participants sought after for each age group. Their birthdate will be asked, and this will determine which group they fall into.

The survey will be distributed via in person until 25 individuals are found for each group. If administering the survey via in person is not yielding enough participants in a timely manner, hard copies will be printed and handed out to individuals at a different local gym in the area. A one-time event will be used to attract a vast array of people within the age groups.

### **Materials and Procedure**

The survey will be acquiring a collection of age for each participant and attitude towards plastic surgery. More specifically, individuals will be answering five to ten questions crafted to yield unambiguous answers towards plastic surgery topics. The responses will be compared within each group, and this will allow for a comparison between among individuals of the different age groups. This will potentially elicit a majority answer for the perceived attitude towards plastic surgery procedures, as well as how most women feel towards plastic surgery within their age group. The responses will be evaluated based on an individual's support or denial answers regarding plastic surgery procedures. A supportive answer will be collected as a yes, and a denial answer will be marked as a no. If an individual has both a positive and negative feeling about plastic surgery procedures, these will be added to a separate grouping of neutral feelings. Each person will be given a one-word answer after careful review of their responses. A 'No' score will be indicative of negative feelings towards plastic surgery procedures, and a 'Yes' score will be indicative of positive feelings of support towards plastic surgery procedures. A 'Neutral' answer will represent having both positive and negative feelings towards plastic surgery procedures. The larger the scores, either support or denial, will indicate stronger feelings towards their respective directions.

# Discussion

The conclusion of the survey showed that both hypotheses were incorrect. The results showed that women's influence to choose plastic surgery procedures would be influenced by age. Instead, there were other factors of influence that were much higher such as self-esteem and confidence. The first hypothesis was supported slightly but was a lower influence than other influencing factors that were not a focus for the survey questions. The results were supported by the main idea of the study in order to have a collection of data in order to compare the results. The results also supported that the main idea of the study was supported because some women, of all age, supported plastic procedures but was partially influenced by age. Age although was a factor for influence, it was still not the main factor of influence for women to pursue plastic surgery procedures. The results were supported by the using an Independent Samples t-Test because the two age groups data were not influenced by the other age group since each woman was asked individually. The test was a manipulation test because the survey asked questions that may have influenced a women's opinion towards plastic surgery procedures.

### Reference

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