



Dr. Brandow showing reporters a video of a laser treatment on one of his patients.

Renowned plastic surgeon may open clinic in S'wak

Dr. Kirk Brandow, a famous American cosmetic plastic surgeon from Philadelphia, USA, who is here to attend the Third Asian Congress on Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, may set up a clinic in Sarawak someday.

He has been 'bitten by the jungle bug' he said, and, being a quiet person who loves tranquillity and beauty, he finds it most desirable to live in a sophisticated city like Kuching which is easily within reach of simple villages with simple folks who have simple desires.

Life is too busy for him in Philadelphia, where he runs a large clinic doing only cosmetic surgery.

He worked on the nose problem of famous pop singer Michael Jackson four years ago. In fact it took 13 operations to correct the problem.

Several other movie stars had also gone to his clinic - including for breast implants.

Dr. Brandow revealed that there is a high demand for cosmetic surgery in the United States.

However, the natural look is in, he asserted, and silicone is no longer used.

Today the technique is belly button breast implants which cost US\$6,000.

"The key to cosmetic surgery is to be natural," he said, and the purpose of the surgery is to enhance looks and cure the spirit.

Dr. Brandow always asks his patients what they want to be done for them, not what he wants to do to them.

"Everybody has a different opinion of what beauty means to them," he explained. He felt strongly that a surgeon must always look at a patient as a person.

"Sometimes you can cure many illnesses by curing the way they feel about themselves," he contended.

By improving parts of the body such as the nose and the hip (by removing fat from it), the surgeon can change the way people feel about themselves.

"In the US, we try to make it affordable," said Dr. Brandow.

His clients are not made up of just movie stars but also the men and women in the street. The cost of a treatment is not as high as it may seem to Malaysians as wages are very high in the USA.

The most popular kinds of surgeries are lipo suction, followed by breast implants (more in the younger age groups) and facial surgery (work on the nose, eye-lids and neck).

Men like to have the skin removed from the neck and to have lipo suction done on their big breasts. In his practice, 10 percent of the patients who resorted to cosmetic surgery used to be men.

But the percentage has increased as men want to compete with younger women for jobs.

Men also like to go to his clinic to have their male organs enlarged. This is especially good for men in the 40s and 50s.

The cost of such an operation is RM3,800 and has to be done twice.

There are various side-effects if a cosmetic surgery is not carried out properly, so a patient must make sure it is done by a surgeon who practises everyday.

He pointed out that cosmetic surgery has become a very refined science today and is a speciality in itself.

"The cosmetic surgeon has to think of the person who is inside," he reiterated.

On facial skin, Dr. Brandow said that there are many things a surgeon can do to make the skin look better and many men are going for such treatments today.

He added that he does a lot of hair transplants for both men and women.

Today, surgeons carry out hair transplants in more sophisticated ways.

Laser treatment was introduced only two years ago and Dr Brandow showed reporters a video of himself carrying out such treatments on his patients.

Dr. Brandow is also a world authority on fat transplant, whereby fat from other parts of the body can be transferred to the face and fat from the face can be extracted to make it thinner.

Thin lips can be made thicker and many models had undergone such operations.

The thick lips of many models on magazine covers are artificial, he disclosed.