

OMNI

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"Nonsense!" says the young, equally charming Michael Evan Sachs in his posh Manhattan office. "I can refine that bump down in ten minutes right here in my office. [Finesse sculpting rhinoplasty, he calls it.] I never heard anything crazier than breaking the bone!"

'Are you squeamish?' Sachs asks. I relate that upon graduating from college, where I majored in fine art, I took a job with a scientist at Harvard Medical School. When he showed me how to slit open a rat's vein and insert a plastic tube, I fainted.

"Can you sit through a video of my fat evaporation technique?"

"I can try," I answer.

In realistic color an image flicks on: a knife approaching an eyeball. But instead of the eye, the skin underneath is slit open to reveal a yellow pad of fat embedded in a triangle of raw, bloody tissue. A needle is inserted into the pad, the cauterized fat suddenly sizzles away and evaporates, and I don't even feel faint.

"Why is that better than cutting?"

"By cutting you either nick some of the tissue or you don't get all the fat. This way you get it all and no bleeding."

"Can you do it to thighs?"

"I don't see why not, though you'd need a much stronger current. But the trouble with doing it to thighs or suctioning it out of thighs, is that you have all that skin left over and something has to be done with it."

Since I survived the eye-fat evaporation,

I decide to watch a nose-augmentation video, using Sach's other invention: tissue clay. First I'm shown the protein: a white Play-Doh-like substance being mixed in a bowl with the patient's own blood. The resulting dark red material is put into a syringe and inserted under the skin into the patient's nose, where the skin has been lifted off the bone.

Looking for something even more miraculous, I phone Sachs and ask for a more detailed futuristic plastic surgery scenario.

"Okay," Sachs says, "let's say were performing a nose job and a face-lift and we won't use a laser, but instead an electromagnetic ray."

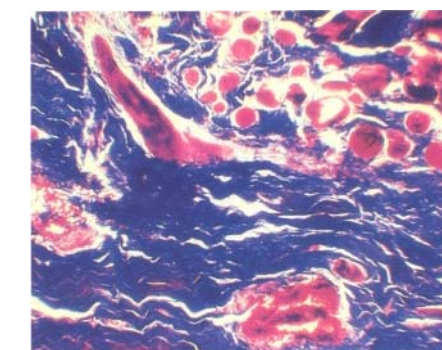
"Why not a breast augmentation and thigh reduction at the same time?" I suggest.

"Why not? Okay. First her doctor gives her site-specific pills a couple of days ahead. One to the bone, muscle, cartilage, and skin. She'll go into a CAT scan type room and lie down, but instead of a CAT scan she'll have a nuclear magnetic resonance unit. Instead of X rays it uses the intrinsic radiation that's given off by her own cells, to take a photograph."

"We'll have a hologram image, and we'll have a computer. We'll call up her nose on the computer. With a pen I'll draw the changes I want to make and the computer will analyze that picture—the bone, cartilage, subcutaneous tissues and will see what needs to be reduced

and in what way. Then we'll make a new hologram. The machine she's in will emit a certain electromagnetic radiation just like TV waves. To reduce the bone in that area, an energy beam will trigger the molecules from the chemical that is already in there from the pill she's taken. Same way with the skin. This little machine will spray a sort of invisible paint on the skin. The paint will react with the chemical that's already lodging there; and the electromagnetic ray will turn on the chemical reaction, remove some molecules, tighten the skin."

"To augment the breasts," Sachs continues, "we'll call them up on the screen, redesign them; and the electromagnetic ray will cause the molecules in the lactating tissue and the muscles to increase and the skin to stretch."



Microscopic photo of Sach's tissue clay. The wavy blue lines are the actual molecules of tissue clay within the human body, (red portion).

The face of the future:
high-tech tucks and laser lifts

BODYSHOP

Omni's reporter, Viva, interviews Dr. Michael Sachs, inventor of over 40 different plastic surgery operations, and coaxes him to reveal today's cosmetic surgery realities and the futuristic wonders of things to come!