

GLAMOUR

SCARRED FOR LIFE? – Not with new scar removal techniques



43-year-old Kimberley Kenny, an American Airline Stewardess, had her top lip savagely bitten by a dog

After a two stage procedure Dr. Sachs miraculously restored her radiant smile

Surgical scar removal – or “revision” as it is called by surgeons – makes it possible for many scars to be improved to such an extent that they are barely noticeable. Here’s the latest news...

What makes a scar a scar?

Scars occur when the skin is broken or cut, by traumatic accident or by surgical incision. Creating a scar is how the skin heals itself. Any one or combination of the following factors can make a scar more visible:

- **Width.** Any scar wider than a wrinkle stands out because it's not a naturally occurring line.
- **Height.** A scar higher than surrounding skin will cast a shadow.
- **Depth.** Likewise, a depressed scar will catch light differently and seem shaded.
- **Length.** Any scar longer than an inch becomes more noticeable.
- **Direction.** If a scar crosses natural expression lines or wrinkles, it's more visible because it's out of sync with the natural line pattern.
- **Colour.** The redness of a new scar makes it stand out. Some scars may also contain pigment - accidents that occur on asphalt surfaces often leave a dark residue.

- **Configuration.** Scars that look like something else - a star, a moon - or a scar that's of irregular width or height is visually more striking, says Michael Sachs, M.D., Chief of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, New York City. Analyzing your scar to discover what bothers you most about it can help your doctor produce the most pleasing results.

What can and cannot be done for scars

- A scar colour cannot be altered. As a scar gets older, however, it generally fades to a light pink or white. It may never match your skin, but it can be camouflaged with cover-up makeups such as Lydia O'Leary's Covermark line.
- Scars cannot be completely erased. A scar revision involves surgery, which in and of itself leaves a scar. Obviously, revision scars are less obvious, but you cannot expect skin to be returned to its pre-scar appearance.
- Wide scars can be narrowed. All or portions of a scar can be removed to make a scar wrinkle-wide and less visible.

by Stephanie Young



Scarred from birth with a cleft lip, Jane ended years of self-consciousness and suffering by having Dr. Sachs reconstruct her lip



Scar and depression of right cheek was reconstructed with one operation.