

TOP STORY



**Titanium Nose Jobs,
Part 1**



SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2002

A doctor in Midtown is using a material for nose jobs what many doctors use for hip replacements: titanium. NY1 Health Reporter Cheryl Wills explains in the first report of a two-part series.

Read [Part Two](#) of Cheryl's series.

Arlene Spivack had a nose job about 30 years ago. She never really liked it, but she figured she was stuck with it – until it started to affect her breathing.

"There was a collapse," she says, "and there was a real blockage in the sides of my nose."

Spivack, who has asthma, needed another nose job, but she wanted to make sure it would last. Her plastic surgeon, Dr. Michael Sachs, encouraged her to try something different to fix her collapsed nose: titanium.

Sachs is the first doctor in the United States to use titanium for nose jobs, technically known as rhinoplasty.

"Titanium is wonderful because it's absolutely inert," he says. "It doesn't cause infection, it doesn't react with the body, it's impossible to be allergic to it and it's impossible to reject it."

Just before the surgery, Spivack has her picture taken to compare with her nose afterwards. Dr. Sachs says the titanium could lift the dents in her nose and give a smoother and more natural appearance.

For the surgery, Spivack is given a twilight local anesthesia, and Dr. Sachs numbs her nose with a novacaine solution. He makes an incision inside the nose and makes a pocket that exactly fits the amount of titanium that is needed to put in the nose.

"Similar to a building or a roof, her roof is collapsed, and we need to have a structural entity," explains the doctor.

Dr. Sachs picks the right thickness of titanium, then cuts a piece to fit inside the nose, then secures it inside.

In the next report, we'll check up on Spivack two months after the surgery to see the results.

- Cheryl Wills

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