

NOTES FROM YOUR

PLASTIC SURGEON

by Paul F. Vanek, Jr. M.D., F.A.C.S.



TISSUE EXPANSION

When a patient requires more skin, such as during an implant in breast-reconstruction surgery, the plastic surgeon may employ a technique known as tissue expansion. This procedure is also useful for removing facial birthmarks. It involves the insertion of a small balloon under the skin through an incision near the birthmark's border. In subsequent weeks, the surgeon slowly fills the balloon with a sterile solution, thereby expanding it and the overlying skin. The birthmark is then excised, and more fluid is injected into the balloon for up to three months. Eventually, tissue extends to cover the area where the birthmark once was. Tissue expansion is also used on men's bald scalps to expand and

remove bald areas.

Plastic reconstructive and cosmetic surgery can give a person a real boost. If you are considering surgery discuss your specific needs and concerns with a surgeon who is Board Certified. My office is conveniently located in the Mentor Medical Campus, 9485 Mentor Ave., Suite 100, Mentor. Please call 205-5750 for an appointment.

P.S. Scalp reduction surgery helps men with male pattern baldness by removing bald areas of scalp on the top of the head and drawing the hair-covered side areas closer together.

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