



Dr. Peter Prendergast, Venus Medical Beauty Clinic

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disfigurement that might lead to bullying in school or if someone has a very abnormal facial structure, then one might consider plastic surgery. It's where nobody else is conscious of the problem and it's more to do with ego than disfigurement, that's the problem."

WHILE the most common age of a cosmetic surgery patient is 41, that figure is coming down. Many Dubliners now have surgery at an earlier age, in order to maintain one appearance throughout their adult life - to continue walking in the Youth

Corridor. This process, known as 'dropping,' avoids the obvious change in appearance if the work is performed later in life. "It is better to prevent rather than cure," says Dr. Peter Prendergast, surgeon and medical director of the Venus Medical Beauty Clinic in Dundrum. "That is to say, it is better to prevent lines rather than to treat them, because the end results are better."

Once a commander of great respect, wrinkled skin is now seen as a disease people seek to eradicate, a fault that needs correcting before it taints the fountain of youth. Ageist? Yes. But then, so is society. Attracta Pedden had a tummy tuck in 2007: "I suppose it depends on your own attitude to life. I'm a young-at-heart person, a bit mad - but there are people out there who are willing to let