

Labiaplasty: Suspect norm or girl-power?



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Comments about
plastic surgery
from younger
generations:

**“If you have
something
about yourself
you don’t like –
why not fix it?”**

**“It’s women
taking control of
their bodies”**

**“It’s not
negative toward
anyone else but
building your
own character”**



It's been almost 25 years since Margaret Little wrote, "Cosmetic Surgery, Suspect Norms, and the Ethics of Complicity;"

1. -Illustrated
images of the
vulva

2. Some
offensive
memes

What is labiaplasty?

- Most common FCGS (female cosmetic genital surgery)
- Worldwide: 2016 138,033 labiaplasties performed (45% increase from previous year)
- 4th most popular cosmetic surgery behind liposuction, breast augmentation, rhinoplasty
- Australia & UK seen a x5 increase in labiaplasty in last 10 years



“The optimal configuration of the vagina theoretically would be to have a sort of even flushed surface between the labia minora and majora...what some would call ‘high and tight’.”




NICE

AND

TIDY

Dr. Red Alisod

"I had been doing more conservative labiaplasties before then," he says. "But I kept getting patients who wanted almost all of it off. They would come in and say, I want a 'Barbie.' So I developed a procedure that would give them this comfortable, athletic, petite look, safely."



“I believe the growth of the procedure has much to do with successful targeting of genital insecurities. Framing certain bodily characteristics as abnormal or undesirable can steer people towards a made-up reality - in this case, the perpetual pre-pubescent neat vulva. Even so, many women know that they have ordinary genitals that are not especially flawed. But this knowledge is not always enough to mitigate against an unrelenting sense of not being good enough.”

-Dr. Lih-Mei Liao



NICE

AND

TIDY

Summing up

- The women seeking out labiaplasty do not have larger labia than those who don't.
- The research shows that the biggest predictor to whether you seek out labiaplasty is media exposure, not the size of your labia.

Why do
young
people seek
out
labiaplasty?
(Self reports)



- “I’m only 14 but I hope I can get this done when I’m moved out” (151 up votes, no downvotes) with people comments

I agree on 1000 levels (I’m 12)

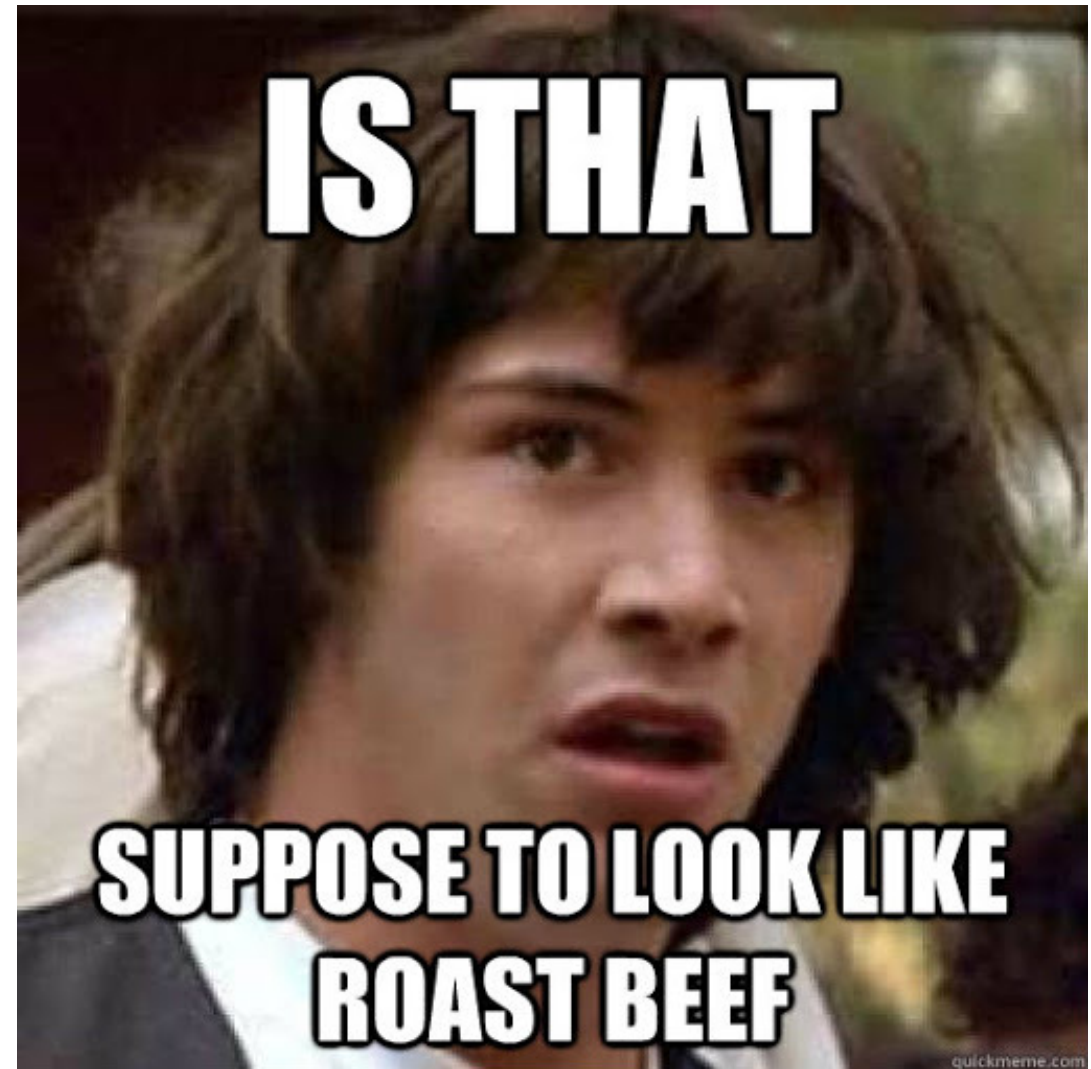
“Same here – I hate mine”

“I’ve hear guys talk about how innies are better and outties look like roast beef”

-“Is it bad that I’m so desperate to get this done I literally just wanna do it at home myself bc I’m too young lmaoo” (125 upvotes, no downvotes)

- “the other day I was like what if I just took some scissors...mine are so gd long”

-“have you not seen the memes? Getting called a roast beef, and I’ve heard so many guys and girls say how nasty it is”



*Myth that sexual promiscuity makes labia minora larger






Little on suspect norms

**I'm not having sex with you until you
GO GET A LABIAPLASTY.**

He means it.

Studies show that women who have had a labiaplasty improve their own sexual satisfaction as well as their partner's. For more information on safe labiaplasty procedures, visit: <http://www.labiaplastysurgeon.com/>

A black and white close-up portrait of a woman with short, light-colored hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing small hoop earrings. The background is blurred, suggesting an indoor setting with other people. A dark, diagonal graphic element is present on the left side of the image.

Margaret Little
“Cosmetic Surgery,
Suspect Norms, and the
Ethics of Complicity”

“sometimes
perform the
surgery, and
always fight
the system”



1 – Men putting women's bodies on display

2-Displays police what counts as “normal” genitalia

3-Only superficially purported for educational purposes

4-Questions about consent





**OUR BODIES
OURSELVES**

A BOOK
BY

BY THE BOSTON WOMEN'S HEALTH BOOK

Application and Advice

Irvin and Aesthetic Exploration



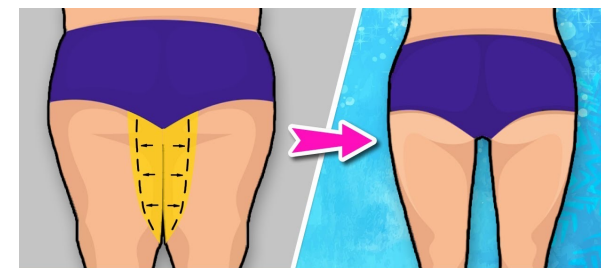
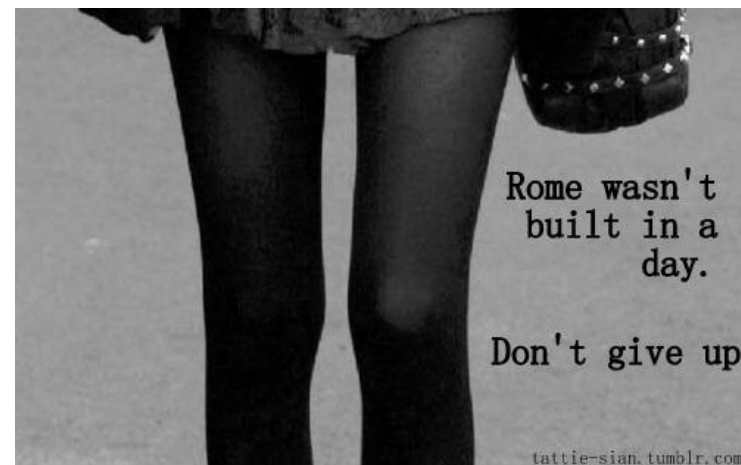
Leboeuf and sensualism



How to Get a Thigh Gap



BY REBECCA TOLCHARD

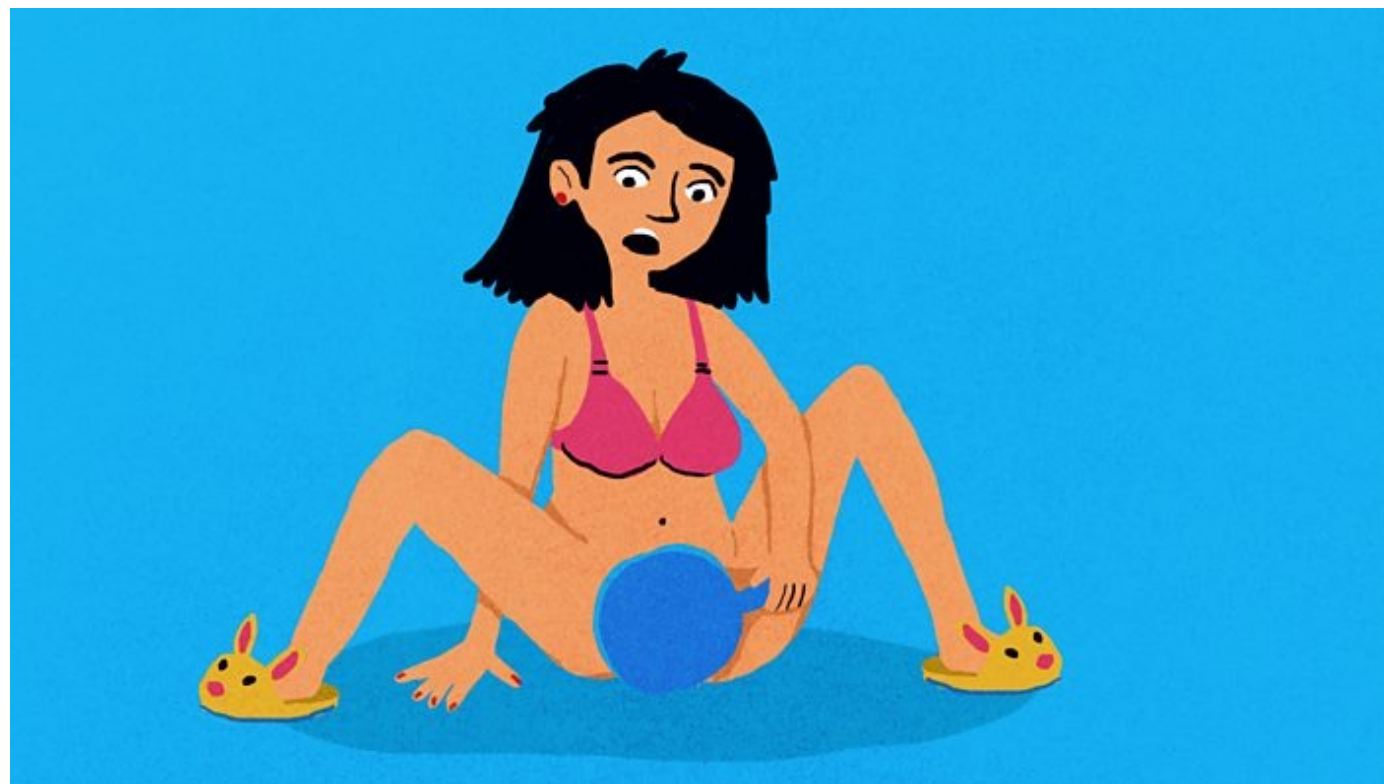


7 DAYS THIGH GAP

Eaton and habituatio



Some additional
thoughts





Ultra Strips Down

SIEMING

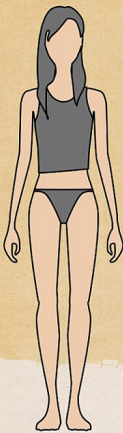
CASPER
VORNER

MURKEN

PETER

1990s The waif

The 90's saw grunge hit the mainstream, and a thin, androgynous look hit the catwalks



Kate Moss (pictured) and Jodie Kidd lead trend for the 'heroin chic' look



1980s The supermodel

Tall, athletic, with legs that 'go on for days'; the 80's was the decade of the Supermodel



Elle MacPherson (below) and Linda Evangelist championed the supermodel look



2010s The bootylicious

Instagram, Twitter and Facebook has made celebrities their own paparazzi



Big booties and curvy frames as seen on Kim Kardashian and Nicki Minaj are the most coveted



1930s The sex siren

Curves came back into fashion and Jean Harlow was the icon



By the late 1930's Jean was the biggest movie star in the world Nicknamed the 'Blond Bombshell' and popular for her 'Laughing Vamp' movie persona



1960s The petite

The swinging sixties saw the introduction of the mini skirt and a much slimmer figure



Supermodels Twiggy (pictured) and Jean Shrimpton popularised the look



1940s The screen queen

The feminine look to cheer returning heroes from the war became the order of the day



With her fierce independence and spirited personality Katherine Hepburn defined the role of the 40's Screen Queen



1920s The flapper girl

The flapper girl has svelted legs for the daring hemlines that were in fashion



Stars of the silent screen, such as Olive Thomas and Alice Joyce (below) defined the Flapper look



1970s The 70's pin up

Wider shoulders and thinner hips became the look in the 70's



The era of the long lean dancing queen like Farrah Fawcett (below)



1950s The curves

Bigger is better as weight gain tablets hit shelves



Marilyn Monroe (pictured) and Elizabeth Taylor were the sex symbols of the 1950s



2000s The tone

Visible abs and spray tans ruled the naughties



Christina Aguilera and Britney Spears (below) vied for the awards during this decade



Eyebrow Fashion



Thanks!

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