



**Colorado Facial
Plastic Surgery**
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Creating Beautiful Faces

Open vs. Closed Rhinoplasty

Two basic approaches have been used to gain access to the bone and cartilage framework during rhinoplasty. Closed rhinoplasty involves the use of incisions within the nostrils followed by elevation of the skin cover off of the underlying framework. In this technique, the bone and cartilage modifications must be done in a “blind” fashion because these areas are not well visualized. Open rhinoplasty adds a small incision across the base of the columella which provides excellent visibility because the skin can then be reflected off of the framework and repositioned once the bone and cartilage maneuvers have been performed.

Closed Rhinoplasty: This is the traditional way to expose the bone-cartilage framework. During a closed rhinoplasty the skin and soft tissue envelope is lifted off the bones and cartilage but not peeled back. The maneuvers applied to the bone and cartilage are therefore performed in somewhat of a blind fashion. This technique is typically used when the desired changes are relatively minor.



Open Rhinoplasty. This technique is similar to closed rhinoplasty but allows much improved access and visibility to the bone and cartilage. The only difference between open and closed rhinoplasty is the addition of a small incision across the columella. This allows the surgeon to lift the skin and soft tissue envelope over the tip of the nose onto the bridge and fully exposes the bone and cartilage inside.

