# Me Clinic - Cosmetic Surgery and Medicine Melbourne

Canonical: https://www.meclinic.com.au/

## Details:

Plastic surgery, cosmetic medicine, vein treatment and skin treatment in Melbourne, at 4 Burke Road, Malvern East. We have practised here since the early 1980s, and were among the first clinics in Australia to offer liposuction.

Across 35 years the clinic has performed surgery for more than 25,000 patients and carried out over 60,000 medical treatments , with a surgical team whose combined experience exceeds 100 years. Our surgeons and cosmetic physicians have trained in Australia, the United States and Europe.

This site is for adults. Cosmetic surgery in Australia requires a GP referral, psychological screening, at least two consultations before booking, and a cooling-off period.

Surgical warning: Any surgical or invasive procedure carries risks. Before proceeding you should seek a second opinion from an appropriately qualified health practitioner.

## What we do

Five areas of practice. Surgical procedures are performed under general anaesthesia at an accredited private hospital; non-surgical treatments are performed at the clinic. Every procedure page carries what it does, what it will not do, the risks, the recovery and an indicative price.

### *Face*

Surgical: facelift , neck lift , brow lift , eye area surgery - upper and lower blepharoplasty , double chin reduction , fat transfer to the face .

Non-surgical: anti-wrinkle treatments , dermal fillers , thread lifts , laser skin rejuvenation , facial hair removal , facial veins .

Not sure which applies? Anti-ageing procedures sets out the four separate things that change with age - skin quality, movement lines, volume loss and descent - with four tests you can do at home in ten minutes to work out which of them you actually have. Treating the wrong one is the most common and most expensive mistake in this field.

### *Body*

Liposuction is the largest single area of practice, with pages on cost by area , light touch and VASER techniques, fat transfer , local versus general anaesthetic , male liposuction and brachioplasty (arm lift) .

Also: tummy tuck , gynaecomastia surgery , labiaplasty and body hair removal .

### *Breast*

Adding volume: augmentation with implants , augmentation with fat transfer , or enhancement without implants .

Changing position or size: breast lift , lift with implants , reduction , reduction and lift .

Correcting or reversing: asymmetry correction , implant removal and replacement . See also before and after , which explains the four measurements a surgeon takes and why an implant is chosen against your base width rather than a cup size.

### *Skin*

Mole and lesion removal , including skin cancer assessment and what it costs . Also skin conditions - which opens with a table taking you from what you can see to the right page, because most people know they have a brown patch rather than the word for it - and skin rejuvenation treatments .

If a mole is changing in size, shape or colour, see your GP now rather than booking a cosmetic appointment.

### *Veins*

Vein treatments covers varicose veins and spider veins , treated by sclerotherapy or endovenous laser . Vein work is the one area here where a Medicare rebate is routinely available, because varicose veins are frequently a medical rather than cosmetic problem - see treatment costs .

This list is not everything we are asked about. The enquiry form carries a longer list including thigh lift, arm lift, scar revision, jawline contouring, inverted nipple correction and body contouring after major weight loss. If what you are considering is not covered by a page here, ask at consultation rather than assuming it is not done.

## Our practitioners, and their registration numbers

Every number below can be checked at ahpra.gov.au in about a minute - it shows qualifications, endorsements, and any conditions on a practitioner's registration. We publish them because you are entitled to them.

### *Specialist Plastic Surgeons*

Dr Gary Kode - MED0001405964. 30+ years, 25,000+ procedures

Dr Amir Tadros - MED0002302612. 18 years, 10,000+ surgeries

Dr Mark Doyle - MED0001375519. 30+ years. Director of Medicine

### *Cosmetic Doctors*

Dr Gordon Ku - MED0001169203

Dr Kwok Hao Lie - MED0001843582

Dr Luis Torres Villacorta - MED0002049692

### *Veins, nursing and skin*

Dr Tim French - phlebologist, MED0001790529. 5,000+ vein procedures

Daniel Silpaps - Aesthetic Nurse, NMW0001993382. 20+ years

Michelle Casey - Paramedical Aesthetician. 25,000+ skin treatments

A note on titles. "Specialist Plastic Surgeon" requires fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS). There is no AHPRA specialty called "cosmetic surgery" , and the title "cosmetic

surgeon" has been restricted since 1 July 2023. Full explanation on meet the team .

Professional memberships. Our surgeons and cosmetic doctors belong to the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), the Australasian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (ASAPS), the International Society of Plastic Surgeons (ISAPS), the Cosmetic Physicians College of Australia (CPCA), the American College of Aesthetic Medicine (ACAM) and the Australian College of Phlebology (ACP). Membership of a society is not the same as specialist registration - registration is what AHPRA records, and it is the thing worth checking.

## The address you consult at is not the address you are operated at

This catches people out, and it is worth knowing before you plan anything. Consultations, skin treatments, injectables, vein work and minor procedures under local anaesthetic happen here at Malvern East. Major surgery does not. All major procedures are performed under general anaesthesia at accredited private hospitals across Melbourne, and one of them is in Geelong - roughly an hour from the city.

Which hospital you attend depends on your surgeon's operating rights and the theatre availability for your date, so it is decided as part of booking rather than chosen from a list. The six are:

| Hospital | Address | Getting there |
|---|---|---|
| Masada Private | 26 Balaclava Road, St Kilda East | Free on-site patient and visitor parking; street parking subject to council limits |
| Linacre Private | 12 Linacre Road, Hampton | On-site parking; two- and four-hour parking in Linacre Road, all-day in Hampton Street. Sandringham line; bus 828 |
| Sir John Monash Private | 1st floor, 212/220 Clayton Road, Clayton | Parking at the rear off Dixon Street, third driveway from the corner. Clayton station is a five minute walk; buses 631, 733 and the 703 SmartBus |
| St Vincent's Werribee | 240 Hoppers Lane, Werribee | Off-street parking, hourly with a maximum daily charge. Werribee line to Hoppers Crossing, then a short walk |
| Peninsula Private | 525 McClelland Drive, Langwarrin | Ticketed car park - take the ticket with you and pay before returning to the car. Buses 790 and 791 from Frankston and Cranbourne stations |
| Epworth Geelong | 1 Epworth Place, Waurn Ponds | About an hour from Melbourne by car via the M1. Paid visitor parking, not undercover. V/Line to Geelong; buses 41, 42 and 43 |

Two practical points that follow from this. First, plan the journey for the day of surgery around not being able to drive yourself home - you will need someone to drive you and stay with you for at least 24 hours, whether you had sedation or a full general anaesthetic. Second, if you are travelling from regional Victoria or interstate, say which hospital you are attending when you book accommodation.

Several hotels and serviced apartments near these hospitals hold patient rates and ask you to quote the hospital by name - it is not advertised at the point of booking, so you have to mention it. Ask our team which options apply to your hospital.

There is an interstate and overseas patient program for people travelling here for treatment; ask about it when you book, because it changes how consultations and follow-up are scheduled.

Your surgeon visits you in hospital after the operation, and sees you again at the clinic about a week later.

## Your first visit

Arrive fifteen minutes early. That time is for paperwork required for your medical record, not padding - arriving on the hour means the consultation starts late or runs short.

The consultation itself covers your health, your medications, your allergies and your previous operations, alongside the outcome you are hoping for. A general medical history is established and an assessment performed, and from that comes a discussion of what is actually appropriate for you - which is not always what you came in asking about.

Four things make the difference between a useful consultation and a vague one:

Send the registration form in early , rather than completing it in the waiting room.

Send photographs promptly if the team asks for them. They are used to prepare for the appointment, not to diagnose - see the consultation form for how to take them usefully.

Write your questions down beforehand. People reliably forget at least one, and it is usually the one that mattered.

Bring a support person. A great deal is discussed in one sitting, and a second pair of ears remembers what you will not.

If you want a sense of what to ask before you get there, start with questions worth asking any clinic .

## What it costs

Every procedure is quoted individually after consultation, because price depends on the operation, its complexity, the hospital and your own anatomy. The ranges below are indicative, current as at September 2024, and are the ones the clinic publishes rather than a "from" figure with the conditions hidden.

### *Consultation fees, including GST*

Specialist Plastic Surgeon $350

Vein consultation with a doctor, which may include ultrasound $230

Cosmetic Doctor $150

Mole removal consultation with a Cosmetic Doctor $150

Skin assessment with a nurse or aesthetician $50 , redeemable on products or services

The consultation fee is payable when you book, not on the day. A partial Medicare rebate may be available on some consultations if you hold a valid GP referral and meet the criteria - consultations carry their own MBS item numbers, separate from any procedure.

### *Surgery*

| Area | Procedure | Indicative range |
|---|---|---|
| Body | Abdominoplasty / tummy tuck | $17,000 - $28,000 |
| Liposuction - body, stomach or arm | $6,000 - $8,000 per hour | |
| Gynaecomastia / male breast reduction | $9,000 - $12,000 | |
| Labiaplasty | $9,000 - $13,000 | |
| Breast | Augmentation with implants | $14,000 - $18,000 |
| Breast lift (mastopexy) | $15,000 - $22,000 | |
| Breast reduction | $16,000 - $27,000 | |
| Augmentation with a lift | $28,000 - $32,000 | |
| Face | Facelift, depending on type | $20,000 - $50,000 |
| Rhinoplasty | $15,000 - $30,000 | |
| Otoplasty / cosmetic ear surgery | $7,000 - $14,000 | |
| Upper blepharoplasty | $8,000 - $12,000 | |
| Lower blepharoplasty | $9,000 - $13,000 | |
| Upper and lower together | $15,000 - $18,000 | |

Note what the eyelid figures show. Upper and lower together is priced below the sum of the two done separately - theatre time and anaesthesia are charged once rather than twice. That principle applies broadly: combining procedures in one operation is usually cheaper than staging them, which is a legitimate reason to ask about combining, and a legitimate reason to be careful that you are not being encouraged into more surgery than you came for.

## *Non-surgical treatments*

Varicose vein treatment from $470 , varying with the severity of the vein condition

Double chin treatment from $3,500

Thread lift from $4,600 ; with Dr Ku from $4,900

Brow lift from $10,000

Volumising treatments from $590 per treatment

Dermal skin treatments from $130

## *What a surgical quote includes*

Your quote covers the surgeon's fee, the assistant where one is required, the hospital, the anaesthesia, recovery care and follow-up . A quote that names only a surgeon's fee is not a quote for the operation - and the assistant is the line most often left out, so check it is there.

Cosmetic procedures attract no Medicare rebate. Where a procedure has a functional indication there may be an MBS item number - ask for it and check with Medicare and your fund yourself. A valid referral and an item number are both needed before private health insurance can contribute. We are not a no-gap provider. And the costs a quote does not show: the total cost .

### *Paying for it*

Payment for major surgery is due four weeks before the date. For minor procedures it is due beforehand rather than on the day.

Cash, EFTPOS, direct deposit and all major credit cards are accepted. Card surcharges apply , which is worth knowing on a five-figure sum.

Independent medical finance companies exist and some patients use them. A medical clinic cannot itself provide finance , so any arrangement is between you and that company - read its terms as carefully as you read the quote.

Cancellation and postponement are governed by our terms and conditions . Read them before you pay, not after.

## What to read before you book anything

Questions worth asking any clinic

Whether a result is realistic for you

What recovery actually involves

Risks and complications

Deciding not to proceed

The before and after gallery, and how to read it

We do not publish patient testimonials. They are prohibited in advertising for regulated health services under section 133 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, and one person's outcome tells you very little about your own - see patient stories . The before and after photographs on this site are of our own patients and have not been retouched.

## The rules that protect you

Since 1 July 2023, before cosmetic surgery in Australia: a referral from your GP or another appropriate practitioner; screening for underlying psychological conditions , including body dysmorphic disorder; at least two consultations before booking, one of which may be by video; and a cooling-off period of at least seven days for adults, or three months plus an independent psychological assessment for anyone under 18.

Any clinic willing to shortcut one of these will shortcut others.

## If you are unhappy with your care

Every clinic says it welcomes feedback. What matters is whether it publishes the route, the addresses and the timeframes - so here they are, along with the bodies you can go to if we do not resolve it.

Speak to your doctor or surgeon first. A great many concerns are a misunderstanding about what was expected, what stage healing is at, or what was agreed - and those are resolved fastest by the person who treated you.

If that does not resolve it, or you would rather speak to someone else, contact the Practice Manager. Phone 1300 852 050 , email patientexperience@meclinic.com , or write to: Attn: Practice Manager, Me Clinic, 4 Burke Road, Malvern East VIC 3145.

Make a formal written complaint. Set out what happened with dates, times and names, to the same email or postal address. We acknowledge receipt within 3 working days and aim to give a full response within 7 working days.

Escalating beyond us. You do not need our permission, and you do not have to exhaust our process first. Which body you go to depends on what the complaint is about - and people frequently go to the wrong one and lose weeks:

About a practitioner - the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) , which regulates individual practitioners and handles serious complaints about their care. 1300 419 495 , ahpra.gov.au. The same register you use to check a registration is run by the body you complain to, which is the point of a national regulator.

About the service, the clinic or how you were treated - the Health Complaints Commissioner (Victoria) , the state body for complaints about health services rather than individual registration. 1300 582 113 , hcc.vic.gov.au.

About your privacy or your medical records - the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner . 1300 363 992 , oaic.gov.au.

Making a complaint does not affect your right to ongoing care. See also contact us .

This is separate from an emergency. For chest pain, shortness of breath, calf pain with swelling, or any change in vision after an injectable treatment, call 000 . Those need emergency assessment, not a complaint process.

## If your original surgeon is no longer available

A particular group of people arrive here through no fault of their own: patients partway through recovery whose operating surgeon has become unavailable - a clinic closed, a practitioner retired or moved, an overseas procedure with no local follow-up. Aftercare is the part of surgery that is easiest to leave stranded, and the consequences of missing it are real.

We accept these patients. Phone (03) 9569 3511 or email the clinic, and a patient advisor will go through your situation and match you with a practitioner able to take on your care. Bring whatever documentation you have - operation reports, implant records, discharge summaries, photographs, the dates of what was done. The more of that you can supply, the less has to be reconstructed.

This applies to aftercare and assessment. Whether any revision procedure is appropriate is a separate clinical question, answered after examination, not before.

## Common questions about Me Clinic

### *Do I need a referral before I can be seen?*

For cosmetic surgery , yes. Since 1 July 2023 a referral is required before your first consultation, ideally from your usual GP, who knows your history and can pass it to the treating doctor. For non-surgical treatments - skin treatments, injectables, laser, vein consultations - no referral is needed.

### *How many consultations before surgery can be booked or a deposit paid?*

At least two. One of them may be by video. The gap between them is deliberate: it exists so you have time to reflect between being told what is possible and committing to it.

### *Is there a cooling-off period?*

Yes. At least seven days for adults. For anyone under 18 it is three months, plus an independent psychological assessment.

### *What does a consultation cost, and when do I pay it?*

As at September 2024, including GST: Specialist Plastic Surgeon $350, vein consultation $230, Cosmetic Doctor $150, mole removal consultation $150, skin assessment $50 and redeemable on products or services. The fee is payable when you book rather than on the day.

### *What does surgery cost?*

See the table above for indicative ranges by procedure. As examples: tummy tuck $17,000-$28,000; breast augmentation with implants $14,000-$18,000; breast reduction $16,000-$27,000; facelift $20,000-$50,000; liposuction $6,000-$8,000 per hour. Every case is quoted individually after consultation.

### *What should a quote include?*

The surgeon's fee, the assistant where one is required, the hospital, the anaesthesia, recovery care and follow-up. A single figure covering only the surgeon is not a quote for the operation, and the assistant's fee is the line most often missing.

### *Why is having two eyelid procedures together cheaper than one after the other?*

Because theatre time and anaesthesia are charged once instead of twice. That is a real saving and a legitimate reason to ask about combining procedures - and equally a reason to make sure you are not being encouraged into more surgery than you came for.

### *How soon can I be seen?*

Phone us and we will fit you in as soon as we can. You can also be added to a wait list, which is how earlier appointments get filled when someone cancels - worth asking for if your timing is tight.

### *Will Medicare or my health fund pay for any of it?*

Purely cosmetic procedures attract no Medicare rebate. Where a procedure has a functional or medical indication there may be an MBS item number - ask which one, and check it with Medicare and your fund yourself rather than relying on our estimate. Both a valid referral and an item number are needed before private health insurance can contribute. A partial rebate may also apply to the consultation itself. We are not a no-gap provider , so an out-of-pocket cost applies.

### *Do you see patients from interstate or overseas?*

Yes - there is an interstate and overseas patient program. Ask about it when you book, because it affects how consultations and follow-up are scheduled, and because follow-up is the part that is hardest to arrange at a distance.

### *Where will my surgery actually take place?*

Not at the clinic. Major surgery is performed under general anaesthesia at an accredited private hospital - Masada, Linacre, Sir John Monash, St Vincent's Werribee, Peninsula or Epworth Geelong. Which one depends on your surgeon's operating rights and theatre availability, and it is confirmed as part of booking.

### *Will I have to stay overnight?*

Some procedures require it for safety. Where it is possible to go home the same day your surgeon will discuss that at consultation. Some patients choose to stay anyway, for the medication and the regular nursing observations.

### *Can I drive myself home afterwards?*

No - and this applies to sedation as well as a full general anaesthetic. You need someone to drive you home and stay with you for at least 24 hours. Arrange it before the day, not on it.

### *When can I fly?*

Domestic flights are usually fine at around two weeks. For international or long-haul, allow six to eight weeks. The reasoning is partly clinical and partly practical: if you are overseas and a problem develops, we cannot look after you.

### *Will I need to wear a surgical garment?*

After some procedures, yes - a close-fitting support garment for comfort, to reduce bruising and to control swelling. If yours requires one, the clinic team will tell you which and for how long.

### *Can I get a certificate for work or the gym?*

Yes. Medical certificates can be provided for work, and for suspending a gym membership during the period you are told not to exercise.

### *How do I make a complaint, and how long will it take?*

Speak to your doctor first; then the Practice Manager on 1300 852 050 or patientexperience@meclinic.com; then a formal written complaint to the same address, setting out dates, times and names. Receipt is acknowledged within 3 working days and a full response is aimed at within 7 working days.

### *Which body do I complain to if I go outside the clinic?*

It depends what the complaint is about. A practitioner and their registration - AHPRA, 1300 419 495. The service, the clinic or how you were treated - the Health Complaints Commissioner (Victoria), 1300 582 113. Your privacy or your records - the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, 1300 363 992. Going to the wrong one costs weeks, and making a complaint does not affect your right to ongoing care.

### *My surgeon is no longer available. Can you take over my aftercare?*

Yes. Phone (03) 9569 3511 and a patient advisor will match you with a practitioner who can take on your care. Bring operation reports, implant records, discharge summaries and dates if you have them. Aftercare and assessment are one question; whether a revision is appropriate is a separate one, answered after examination.

### *Is surgery overseas a reasonable way to save money?*

It is often cheaper and not always safer. The recognised issue is a higher complication and revision rate, and revision surgery is a second full cost rather than a top-up - so the comparison to make is not the two quoted prices but the quoted price against the price plus a possible revision. Recovering at home, near the team that operated on you, is worth something on its own. See risks of overseas cosmetic surgery .

### *How do I check that a practitioner is registered?*

Search the registration number at ahpra.gov.au . It takes about a minute and shows registration type, endorsements and any conditions on their practice. Every practitioner on this site is published with their number so you can do exactly that - here and at any other clinic you are considering.

### *Is membership of a society the same as being registered?*

No. Societies and colleges - ASPS, ASAPS, ISAPS, CPCA, ACAM, ACP - have their own membership criteria, and membership is worth something, but registration is what AHPRA records and it is the thing to check. A long list of acronyms is not a substitute for a registration number.

### *Is a "cosmetic surgeon" the same as a Specialist Plastic Surgeon?*

No. "Specialist Plastic Surgeon" is a protected title requiring fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. There is no AHPRA specialty called "cosmetic surgery" , and the title "cosmetic surgeon" has been restricted since 1 July 2023. Any clinic advertising "specialist registration in cosmetic surgery" is describing something that does not exist.

### *Why are there no patient testimonials on this site?*

Testimonials about regulated health services are prohibited in advertising under section 133 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law. Beyond the law, one person's outcome tells you very little about your own. Our before and after images are of our own patients, unretouched, and results vary between individuals.

### *Can you tell me what a mole is from a photograph?*

No, and neither can anyone else. An online enquiry books an appointment; it is not an assessment. If a mole is changing in size, shape or colour, see your GP rather than waiting for a reply from any clinic.

### *Do you provide second opinions?*

Yes, including on a plan you have already been quoted for elsewhere. We also recommend seeking a second opinion before any surgical procedure - ideally from a registered Specialist Plastic Surgeon - and that recommendation stands whether or not the first opinion came from us.

### *Where are you, and when are you open?*

4 Burke Road, Malvern East VIC 3145, about a five minute walk from Caulfield station. Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-5pm; Tuesday and Thursday 9am-6pm; Saturday 9am-2pm.

### *Is there parking, and can I come by public transport?*

There is free parking under the building and in the surrounding streets. By train, Caulfield station is a five minute walk. By tram, take an outbound service to the stop at the corner of Burke and Waverley Roads.

### *What should I do if something goes wrong after a treatment?*

Contact us on 1300 852 050 or (03) 9569 3511. Call 000 for chest pain, shortness of breath, calf pain with swelling, or any change in vision after an injectable treatment - these need emergency assessment, not an appointment. If the issue is dissatisfaction rather than an emergency, see the complaints route above.

## Contact

Me Clinic 4 Burke Road, Malvern East VIC 3145 1300 852 050 or (03) 9569 3511 doctors@meclinic.com.au Patient experience and complaints: patientexperience@meclinic.com

Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-5pm; Tuesday and Thursday 9am-6pm; Saturday 9am-2pm. Free parking under the building; five minutes' walk from Caulfield station.

Book through the consultation form . Note that nobody can diagnose a skin lesion or plan a procedure from photographs - an online enquiry books an appointment, it is not an assessment. If a mole is changing, see your GP rather than waiting for an online reply.

Call 000 for chest pain, shortness of breath, calf pain with swelling, or any change in vision after an injectable treatment.

Individual results may vary. Any surgical or invasive procedure carries risks. Before proceeding you should seek a second opinion from an appropriately qualified health practitioner. Prices are indicative and subject to change.