

Four stylized lip prints are stacked vertically on the left side of the image. The top print is blue, the second is gold, the third is red, and the bottom one is silver. They are all oriented horizontally, showing the shape of the lips.

Lip Service

Surgical lip lifts
and other lip
augmentation
procedures

What is an Upper Lip Lift?

An upper lip lift is a **surgical procedure** that shortens the space between your nose and your upper lip (called the philtrum).

It lifts the upper lip slightly, showing more of the pink part (vermilion) of your lip.

It creates a fuller, more youthful appearance.

The result is **permanent** and can help balance your facial features.

Why Do People Choose a Lip Lift?

The upper lip looks **too long or thin**.

Lips disappear when smiling.

Desire for a **permanent solution** instead of fillers.

To show more teeth when smiling for a youthful look.

To improve lip shape and definition.

What Types of Upper Lip Lifts Exist?

Several surgical techniques can lift the upper lip. The most common include:

Bullhorn Lip Lift Incision under the base of the nose shaped like a bull's horns.

Direct/Gullwing Incisions along the lip border for definition.

Others Corner and "Italian lifts



The incision under the base of the nose for
Bullhorn lift



The incision for Gullwing lift

Who is a good candidate?

Adults with a philtrum (central upper lip) longer than 1.5 cm.

Those seeking permanent results (vs. temporary fillers) .

Patients with thin lips, aging-related elongation, or asymmetry

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You might not be an ideal candidate if you:

Have very short philtrum or excessive tooth show when smiling .

Smoke heavily and can't quit.

Have a history of thick or raised scars.

Have unrealistic expectations

Want only lip volume rather than a shorter lip length.

How is the procedure performed?

Anaesthesia: Local anaesthesia; general if combined with other surgeries .

Duration: Approximately 60 minutes

Process: Bullhorn lift involves incision under the nose → skin removal → suturing. (other types of lift use different incisions) .

Can It Be Combined with Other Procedures?
Yes! Many people combine a lip lift with:

Rhinoplasty (nose surgery)

Chin surgery

Facelift

Other facial rejuvenation procedures

What is Recovery Like?

Usually mild discomfort.

Pain is typically manageable with simple pain killers

Tightness, swelling and bruising fade in 1–2 weeks.

The stitches are removed in 6–7 days.

The result is assessed 4–6 months after surgery.

Does it change your smile?

A lip lift increases "tooth show" when smiling, creating a brighter, more youthful appearance without altering the smile's natural shape .

Will I Have a Scar?

Yes—but placed carefully to hide under the nose or at mouth corners.

Scars usually fade well over time.

Following scar care instructions is important.

What Are Possible Risks?

All surgery has some risks, including:

Visible scarring

Asymmetry (uneven shape)

Infection

Numbness around the upper lip, usually temporary

Dissatisfaction with cosmetic results

How does it compare to lip fillers?

1. Permanent vs temporary results
2. Different mechanism: lifts existing tissue vs adds volume
3. One-time cost vs ongoing filler maintenance
4. Scarring risk vs reversible results with fillers
5. Better for length issues vs volume deficiency

How Much Does It Cost?

Costs vary by surgeon and location.

Visit our Hospital website for up to date information

Waterfront Private Hospital Edinburgh

<https://www.waterfronthospital.co.uk>

Examples



before



Two days after Bullhorn
lip lift and face lift



Two weeks after



before



3 months after



Before



Three months after



Gullwing lip lift and reshaping of the upper lip .
This was combined with chin augmentation



before



Six weeks after bullhorn upper lip lift and face lift



before



Six weeks after bullhorn upper lip lift and face lift

Non-surgical options for upper lip enhancement

1. Hyaluronic Acid (HA) Dermal Fillers

Best for:

Adding volume

Defining the lip border (vermillion border)

Correcting asymmetry

Subtle lift of the upper lip



HA Fillers : Upper and lower lip augmentation



HA Fillers: Line reduction



HA Fillers : Reduction of lines and enhancement of
symmetry and volume



HA Fillers : Enhancing lip shape and lifting the corners of the mouth

2. Lip Flip (Botulinum Toxin)

Best for:

Subtle outward “flip” of the upper lip

Making the lip appear slightly fuller without adding volume

It works by injecting tiny amounts of botulinum toxin (e.g. Botox) into the orbicularis oris muscle above the upper lip. This relaxes the muscle slightly, causing the lip to roll outward.

3. Laser Resurfacing

Best for:

Reducing lines above the upper lip

Ablative lasers: one session, significant downtime, more dramatic results but risks of scarring or pigmentary changes.

Fractional lasers: multiple sessions needed, less downtime, safer for a wider range of skin tones, good for mild-to-moderate wrinkles, results develop gradually over weeks/months.



Permanent reduction of upper lip lines
By ablative Erbium YAG laser resurfacing.



Approx 6 weeks after Erbium YAG Resurfacing
Combined with face lift

Permanent reduction of upper lip lines
By ablative Erbium YAG laser resurfacing.

Disclaimer

Individual Results May Vary: The before and after photographs displayed are of actual patients who have undergone cosmetic procedures performed under our care. These images are provided for educational purposes only and to illustrate potential results. Individual results will vary based on factors including but not limited to patient anatomy, skin type, age, health status, healing capacity, adherence to post-operative instructions, and realistic expectations.

No Guarantee of Results: These photographs do not constitute a guarantee, warranty, or prediction of your individual results. Your results may be better, the same, or worse than those shown. No cosmetic procedure can guarantee perfect results or complete satisfaction.

Consultation Required: These images should not be used as the sole basis for deciding to undergo a cosmetic procedure. A thorough consultation with a plastic surgeon is essential to determine if you are a suitable candidate and to discuss realistic expectations for your specific case.