

# FACE & body WORKS

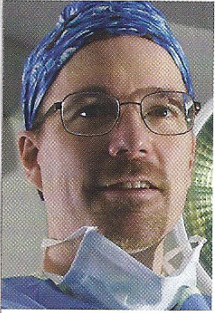


PHOTO: MICHAEL SYNIEWSKI

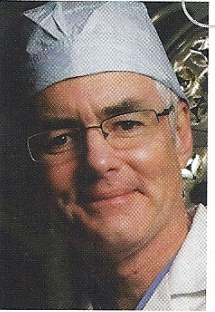


PHOTO: TANYA BREEN

When it comes to the latest cosmetic surgery procedures, there is one phrase to keep in mind: “minimally invasive.”

Such procedures as breast augmentation, varicose vein treatment, tummy tuck and liposuction once meant hospital stays, the use of general anesthesia and prolonged recovery times. Now it’s all about getting the patient on and off the table as quickly, comfortably and safely as possible. The bottom line is that today, women are able to improve areas of their body much more quickly and safely – and with little interruption to their busy lives.

In Jersey magazine consulted with five area doctors known for their work in breast augmentation, abdominoplasty (tummy tuck), endovenous laser treatment, face fillers and derriere lift (Brazilian butt lift). We also spoke to the women whose lives have been changed drastically and for the better by these procedures.

## Michael C. Gartner, M.D. – Plastic Surgeon (Eatontown, Paramus)

When Gartner visited South America in 2002, he heard about a procedure being done: the “Brazilian butt lift.”

The technical term is “fat grafting to the buttocks.” It means the doctor does liposuction on the abdomen, waist or other areas of the body, harvests those fat cells, cleans them and then injects that fat into the buttocks.

“As we age, we lose fat in the buttocks, which becomes deflated, and the crease beneath the buttocks gets longer,” he says. “This fills out the buttocks and tightens the skin, depending on how much fat you have

and your age range. I have young women who are a bit overweight and don’t like the shape of their buttocks. After pregnancy, the butt can become deflated like the breasts. I’ve been doing it for eight years.”

Dr. Gartner notes that a lot of Hispanic and African-American women like a fuller buttock. He says it started in South America but has now spread to the caucasian patients. Ten years ago, there were very few doctors doing it in the U.S. In the last five years, there’s been a dramatic increase in demand (particularly in the last three years).

STORY BY **LISA GIRARD** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **BOB BIELK**

TOP TO BOTTOM: DR. MICHAEL C. GARTNER, DR. CYNTHIA SALTER-LEWIS, DR. PETER T. HETZLER, DR. ANDREW ELKWOOD, DR. GINA L. LOUIE