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The most common procedure in Colombia is liposuction. In 2013, 50 559 of them were made. Since the late 90s, when plastic surgery gained popularity in the country, it began to be increasingly common for girls gift request a facelift 15 years.

This may change if passed the bill filed last week by Sen. U Party, Mauricio Lizcano week. The initiative seeks to ban plastic surgery for purely cosmetic

purposes on minors, even if they have parental consent, because according to the senator, there is currently no control by the authorities on such practices.

"Today, more and more, we are invaded by advertising that shows beautiful bodies, necklines, beautiful women, and children grow up with that ideal of beauty, thinking many times that the easiest way is with a plastic surgery "says Dr. Lina Triana Maria Lloreda, president of the Colombian Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (SCCP) Surgery and member of the board of the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, ISAPS). He adds that a minor has not reached physical or mental maturity to face the risks and consequences of these procedures, which in most cases are irreversible.

"A girl of 15 years may not know what you want, or you can get a breast just for fashion, and later may rethink that decision," he says.

However, although it is agreed that this type of law could be beneficial, Dr. Constantino Mendieta, a member of the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (USA) considers that it is not possible to generalize the maturity of all children old.

"We have many patients of 16 who have the maturity of a 25, and other 18 with the maturity of one of 12. There are some psychological factors that must be evaluated, otherwise being removed individually for each patient" detailed Mendieta, thus believes that each case should be evaluated independently by medical professionals and psychology. Similarly says **Lyle Back, plastic surgeon and member of the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery**, who believes that can not be answered with a simple "yes" or "no" if plastic surgery is appropriate for minors.

An individual of any age who is emotionally or psychologically immature, that is not prepared or is unstable, any cosmetic procedure should not be performed, says the plastic surgeon Lyle Back.

"It's not even easy to answer that question when it comes to adults. The plastic surgeon has a responsibility to explore with each patient, regardless of age, what their identity and concerns. The options that exist, convenience, pros and cons of the procedures should be considered and discussed carefully, "he says Back, who has taught and participated in the Operation Smile charity project which operates for children with cleft lip and palate worldwide.

Exceptions

The prohibition of the bill does not apply to surgery nose, eyes and ears, reconstructive surgery or caused by physical or psychological pathologies duly accredited by the respective health professionals.

In the latter case, the project argues that the surgeon must apply for special permission from the local authority health to carry out the procedure.

Explains Dr. Lina Triana, this is because there are some organs of the body that develop at an earlier age than others (such as the ears, taking place almost entirely at 5 years, and nose, at 15), and the existence of cases like those of young people having overly large breasts and suffer from back pain, or have a lot bigger than the other breast.

Many children and young people flock to these procedures after being "teased and ridiculed for their appearance," said Dr. Lyle Back, referring to cases of ear very projected outward, pronounced nose, retracted chins, among others says. "Most people have a reasonable concern about a particular feature that is out of proportion, or makes them feel physically uncomfortable or are not 'normal'" he says.

More details of the bill

Procedures that prohibit minors breasts and buttocks implants, eyelid surgery, scalp grafts, malar implant surgery chin, lips, face lift, removal of skin on the face, tummy tucks, liposuction and liposculpture, vaginal rejuvenation, botox carboxiterapia, hidrolipólisis, mesotherapy and ultracavitation.

Penalties for doctors and health institutions that violate the rule can range from a fine from 2,900 million pesos to the temporary or permanent closure of the establishment. They must also respond for damages to patients. Advertising promotional plastic surgeries, offices, clinics and cosmetic procedures that are directed or has as models to minors is prohibited.

What to do when the minor is not suitable if a minor is not suitable candidate for plastic surgery, Dr. Lina Triana believes it is necessary to explain both the teenager and her family reasons, and encourage good habits among youth eating and exercise as an alternative to raise their self-esteem.

Colombia, the sixth country where more procedures are done according to the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery in Colombia 420 955 cosmetic procedures were performed in 2013, placing the country in sixth place in the world with the highest number of surgeries after US, Brazil, Mexico, Germany and Spain.