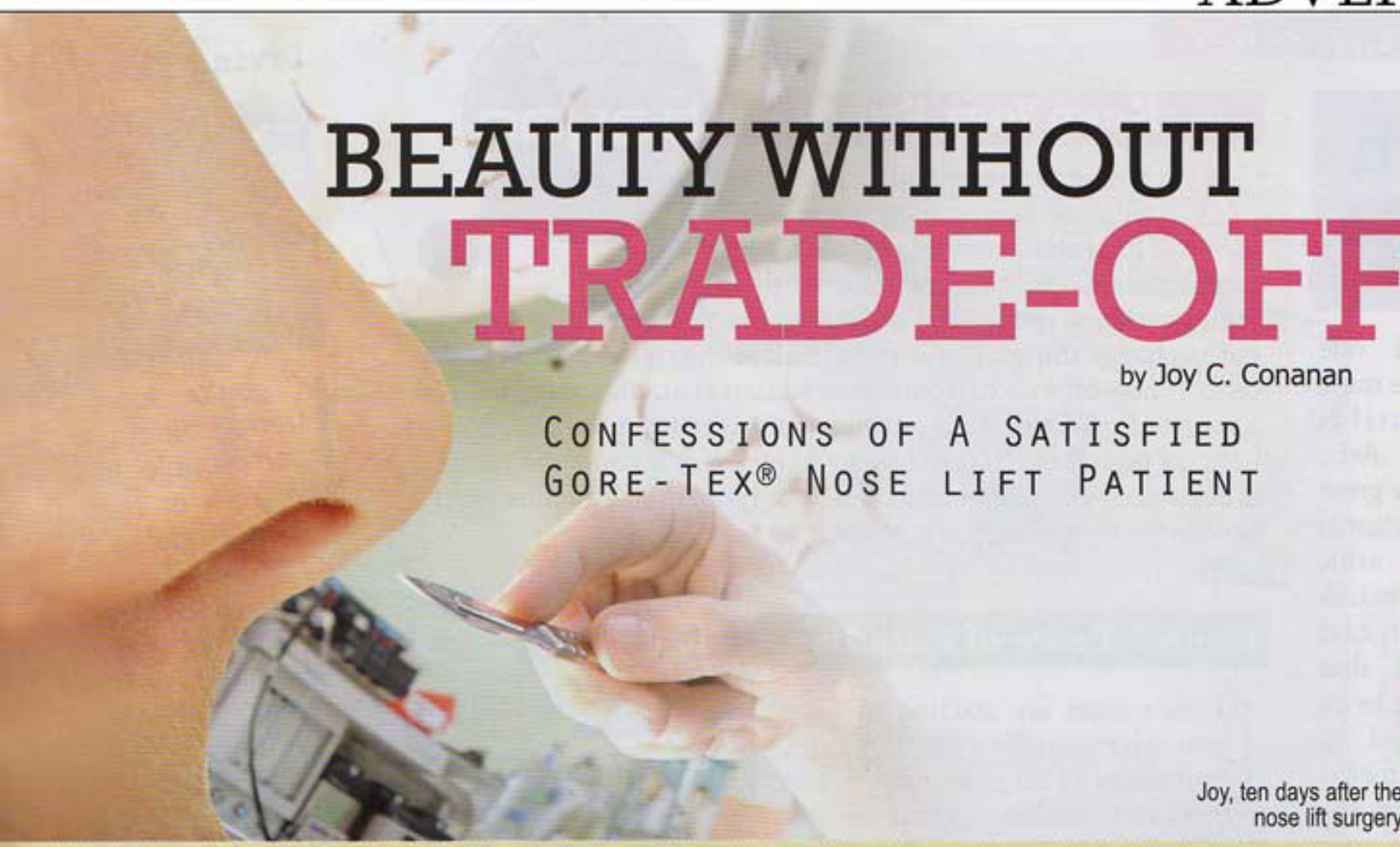


BEAUTY WITHOUT TRADE-OFFS

by Joy C. Conanan

CONFESSIONS OF A SATISFIED
GORE-TEX® NOSE LIFT PATIENT



Joy, ten days after the nose lift surgery

While it is true that beauty lies within, we cannot underrate the importance of outer looks especially nowadays when competition both in our professional and personal lives are very stiff, and the standards of beauty are becoming increasingly high.

I'm one of those who value physical beauty a lot, and not because I am vain. It simply makes me feel good whenever I see myself looking good. It gives me a feeling of gratification and boosts my self-esteem. Even those tagged as the most beautiful faces in the celebrity world keep on finding ways to continuously enhance their looks, so why shouldn't I? I know I am beautiful (at least in my own right and in the eyes of the man who really loves me) but not as beautiful as them. I believe that I owe it to myself to age gracefully, not just mentally, socially, emotionally or psychologically – but physically as well. And part of that is to enhance what can be enhanced. As in my case, I knew very well that it was my nose.

My nose wasn't too bad at all. But my bridge was a bit wide and not high enough to be in harmony with the rest of my facial



Dr. Lansangan while doing the procedure

features. My nasal tip needs to be augmented as well. Good thing my nostrils are not flaring and not too wide. Though I had always wanted to have a noselift, from the start I knew I didn't want to come out of this experience looking like someone else. I wanted to still look like myself – only better. To achieve the natural results I was searching for, I knew that I needed two things: an experienced doctor with an artistic eye specializing in rhinoplasty or “nose jobs,” and a very good implant that need not be

replaced every couple of years to avoid complications. Silicone was never part of my options. I read and heard a lot about its many complications from the internet and individuals who suffered from material rejection, implant deviation and nasal contraction. I have actually seen a couple of friends who had deformed noses after a few years of undergoing nose surgery. I have seen how they got worse by suffering not only physically but emotionally and psychologically as well, to the extent of withdrawing from their usual social life. Though I put a premium on beauty, I believe that undergoing the knife is not worth it if it will mean a significant trade-off by making me feel miserable physically. That's why initially, I was a bit hesitant subjecting myself to a nose lift.

I learned about safe implant alternatives like autologous rib cartilage harvesting and the irradiated donor cartilage. However, the price of those implants alone is so prohibitive that I could have bought myself a slightly used second hand car with the amount. There must be something as safe as cartilage implants with an affordable price, I told myself. All I had to do was keep on researching.

My efforts doing my homework finally paid off. At age 34, I met Dr. Levi John Lansangan of Shimmian Manila Surgicenter while I was doing one of my projects. Having trained in Korea for several years in crafting the ideal nasal profile, I instantly knew that he was the doctor I had been looking for. I was impressed not only because of his aesthetic surgical foresight but for the advanced technology that he brought in to the country – the reconstructive rhinoplasty using the GORE-TEX® implant.

All of my apprehensions of having a nose lift suddenly vanished with my very first conversation with Dr. Lansangan. His expertise with the GORE-TEX® implant was definitely the answer to my long wait. I was very pleased to find out that GORE-TEX® “is a safe, worry-free and silicone-free approach” in augmenting the nose. As a soft and porous material, as it allows growth of human tissues into the empty spaces within it, helping anchor the implant in the treated area. Oftentimes judged as the best implant by many nasal surgery experts, GORE-TEX®'s soft consistency allows it to blend well with the contours of the nose, providing a natural-looking nose lift as if one was born with it. More importantly, it is safe, with nil chances of rejection.

This natural and rapid growth of tissues within and through