

the GORE-TEX® implant allows our bodies to treat it not like a foreign object – something a hard implant like silicone is not capable of. This inflexibility and inability of silicone to incorporate into the surrounding tissues puts pressure on the normal movement of the nose, which eventually leads to contracture formation, material rejection and other complications. This further deforms the nose, defeating the purpose of improving it. What I actually dreaded most was the fact that silicone had been proven to help develop calcified tissue deposits, which in turn causes cancer. This finding compelled first world countries to ban it for surgical use.

Being the only Filipino member of the advanced rhinoplasty research team in Asia, I told myself that Dr. Lansangan must be really good. Add to his credentials his authorship of *Sub-Nasale Flap* published in the *Plastic Reconstructive Surgery Journal*, I decided not to look for anyone else. His dedication and extensive years of experience in nasal craftsmanship have brought him local and international recognition among patients and aesthetic surgical societies. And I was proven right with my assessment.

Now, no one would ever guess I had my nose done. My new nose looks like it fits my face and no one believes me when I tell them I had a nose lift. A day after my nasal splint was removed, my nose was still a bit swollen when my parents mentioned that I looked so much younger and more beautiful but they couldn't exactly pinpoint why. They didn't notice that it was my nose that was different, though it didn't look the same anymore. Good thing there's the GORE-TEX® nose lift. My nose looks so natural. Far more important than that, I'm assured that inside me is a safe



implant that will last a lifetime. Plus I can still engage in active sports without any worry of getting an injury, which might lead to implant rejection. In less than a week, I was back to work and happily overwhelmed with the positive remarks from the people around me.

These days, whenever I visit Shimmian, I couldn't help wondering why lots of patients go there to fix their noses when they are already blessed with beautiful ones. Then I realized that just like me, they had their noses done and just want to express their gratitude to the one who made them so beautiful with their new natural-looking noses.

What adds to my amazement is the growing number of younger patients of about 17 to 25 years old flocking to his clinic to undergo a nose lift or other facial surgery procedures. Sometimes I regret not having had it done when I was around that age, when I could have benefited the most. My best consolation is, nowadays most of the people I know (including my better half who has always been my worst critic) tell me that I am more beautiful with my new nose, making me look about ten years younger. And that's without any trade-offs!

Shimmian Manila Surgicenter is located at Unit 2601-2602, Medical Plaza, San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For more information on Gore-Tex and Shimmian's surgical and dermatological services, e-mail levilansangan@yahoo.com, visit www.shimmianmanila.com or call (02) 910-0239.