Low graphics | Accessibility help

BB@ NEWS

News Front Page World

UK England Northern Ireland Scotland

Wales
Business
Politics
Health
Education
Science &
Environment
Technology

Video and Audio

Entertainment

Also in the news

Have Your Say
Magazine
In Pictures
Country Profiles
Special Reports

RELATED BBC SITES

SPORT
WEATHER
CBBC NEWSROUND
ON THIS DAY
EDITORS' BLOG

IVE LIV BBC NEWS CHANNEL



News services Your news when you want it



Last Updated: Thursday, 11 October 2007, 11:21 GMT 12:21 UK

E-mail this to a friend

Printable version

Face paralysis surgery 'miracle'

A woman who had a pioneering operation for facial paralysis at a West Sussex hospital has said the surgeon who carried it out was a "miracle man".

Vivvy Butler, from Surrey, said she felt normal again and was able to smile after the temporalis tendon transfer at the Queen Victoria Hospital.



Vivvy Butler had pioneering surgery for facial paralysis

"This operation gave me back my face, which is wonderful," she said.

Plastic surgeon Charles Nduka said he hoped the technique would become more widely available across the UK.

It involves severing a major facial muscle and related tendon, stretching them across the face and attaching them to mouth muscles.

"I went to France and Brazil to learn this technique and it has been a real revelation," said Mr Nduka.

My face has been pulled up so it is more even and I can smile a little and I feel normal again

Vivvy Butler

A clinic has now been set up at the East Grinstead hospital which brings together maxillofacial and plastic surgeons with a speech therapist, psychotherapist

and physiotherapist.

"I am very lucky to work in this team - it is very rewarding," said Mr Nduka.

Ms Butler, from Elstead, suffered a benign brain tumour six years ago which paralysed her face.

One side of my face was paralysed - it drooped right down and I couldn't smile," she said.

"I felt very ugly to begin with. I was worried my husband wouldn't love my any more.

"It was difficult to communicate and I was worried that I would be scary to kids."

She said she tried various treatments, but achieved only



Ms Butler suffered a benign brain

VIDEO AND AUDIO NEWS

An artist can smile again after pioneering surgery

Watch



BBC Southern Counties

Sport, travel, weather, things to do and more

SEE ALSO

- Health trusts settle baby dispute 30 Aug 07 | England
- Success for 'first' eye patient 09 Aug 07 | Sussex
- Extension opened at burns centre 29 Jun 07 | Sussex
- Facial paralysis treatment hailed 17 Jul 07 | Americas

RELATED INTERNET LINKS

Queen Victoria Hospital

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

TOP SUSSEX STORIES

- Murder arrest as woman disappears
- Calls for Hastings Day holiday
- Homeless man's duvet set on fire

News feeds

MOST POPULAR STORIES NOW

MOST SHARED

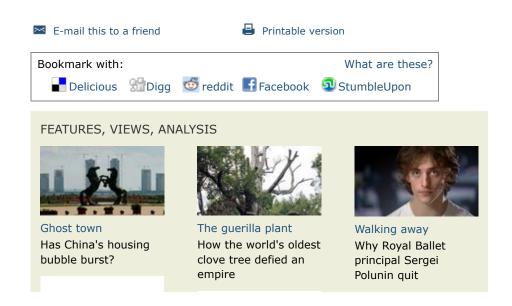
MOST READ

- 1 BBC News
- 2 BBC News
- 3 BBC News
- 4 BBC News
- 5 BBC News
- 6 BBC News
- 7 BBC News
- 8 BBC News
- 9 BBC News
- 10 BBC News
- Most popular now, in detail

minor improvement until she tumour six years ago had the operation three months ago, in time for her son's wedding.

"I suddenly found out about this miracle man who does this brand new operation and I decided to go for that," she said.

"My face has been pulled up so it is more even and I can smile a little and I feel normal again."



Most Popular Now

The most shared story right now is: Inside Saddam's Baghdad bunker

