



Featured Authority Profile

Dr. Daron Praetzel

Board-Certified Facial Cosmetic Surgeon | Military Surgeon | Educator | Past President, American Board of Facial Cosmetic Surgery

“Facial surgery is not just about restoring anatomy—it is about restoring identity, confidence, and opportunity. I feel humbled every day by the trust patients place in me, and I remain deeply grateful to the mentors who helped shape the surgeon I have become.” — Dr. Daron Praetzel

Clinical Focus

Dr. Daron Praetzel is a board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeon and a board-certified facial cosmetic surgeon whose practice focuses on facial cosmetic surgery, facial reconstruction, and procedures that restore both form and confidence. His work includes aesthetic facial procedures, complex facial trauma, and reconstructive surgery, with the guiding goal of helping patients look natural, feel confident, and regain a sense of identity following injury, aging, or congenital conditions.

Through decades of surgical experience in both military and civilian environments, Dr. Praetzel has developed an approach that blends surgical precision with an appreciation for the profound personal impact facial surgery can have on a patient's life.

Surgical Philosophy

Dr. Praetzel believes the face represents far more than anatomy—it reflects identity, expression, and human connection. His surgical philosophy centers on thoughtful planning, meticulous technique, and results that enhance a patient's natural features while preserving their individuality.

He often reflects that the greatest privilege of surgery is the opportunity to change someone's life in a meaningful way. Dr. Praetzel emphasizes the humility that comes with this responsibility and frequently shares that he feels deeply honored to provide surgical care to patients who place their trust in him during vulnerable moments in their lives.

He also credits much of his surgical philosophy and skill to the many mentors who generously shared their knowledge and experience throughout his training and career. Their guidance continues to influence his commitment to excellence, mentorship, and lifelong learning.

Contributions to the Specialty

Dr. Praetzel has devoted much of his career to advancing facial cosmetic surgery through leadership, education, and professional collaboration. He served as President of the American Board of Facial

Cosmetic Surgery and continues to support the organization's mission to uphold the highest standards in facial cosmetic surgery.

He is a nationally and internationally recognized speaker who lectures on facial cosmetic surgery, surgical innovation, and professional development within the specialty. Dr. Praetzel also contributes to the advancement of surgical standards by serving as an expert witness in surgical cases and mentoring colleagues through continuing education and professional collaboration.

For more than sixteen years, he has helped organize and support continuing education opportunities for dental and surgical providers in his local community, fostering a culture of shared knowledge and professional growth among healthcare professionals.

Military Service and Leadership

Dr. Praetzel is a decorated Colonel in the United States Air Force Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) Reserves. He completed thirteen years of active-duty service and is currently in his seventeenth year of reserve service.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, he served in Balad, Iraq, where he performed life-saving and complex facial trauma surgery for injured service members in a combat medical environment. These experiences helped shape his leadership philosophy and reinforced his lifelong commitment to service, resilience, and teamwork in surgery.

Philanthropy and Community Impact

Dr. Praetzel is the founder of the Faces Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to changing lives through reconstructive and facial surgery. The foundation focuses on providing life-changing surgical care that restores function, confidence, and opportunity for patients in need.

More information about the foundation and its mission can be found at www.fixfaces.org.

Professional and Personal Endeavors

Dr. Praetzel is the owner of a private oral and maxillofacial surgery practice and an independent outpatient surgery center. Beyond medicine, he is involved in historic building development and restoration and is an avid CrossFit athlete who values discipline, resilience, and lifelong performance both inside and outside the operating room.

Throughout his career, Dr. Praetzel has remained focused on one simple mission—using surgical skill, leadership, and service to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.