State-of-the-art facilities and lower prices have increased medical tourism in developing countries. How does the globalization of cosmetic surgery affect the practice in America?

**Major destinations of American medical tourists**

- Mexico: 25–35%*
- Hungary: 40–50%*
- Costa Rica: 30–40%*
- Brazil: 40–50%*
- South Africa: 30–40%*
- Thailand: 30%*
- Malaysia: 25%*
- Singapore: 35%*
- India: 20%*

*Average estimated costs relative to the US health system

**The positives**
- Reduced cost
- Better patient care
- State-of-art facilities
- Added bonus of vacation

**The negatives**
- Hidden risks
- Gap between data and presented information
- New environment
- Scarce data regarding clinical outcomes and follow-up

**The way forward?**
- Reduce domestic costs
- Provide superior care
- Counsel about risks
- Increase collaboration abroad

American plastic surgeons must understand global medical tourism trends and learn to adapt to them.

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Impact of Medical Tourism on Cosmetic Surgery in the United States

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