

# THE CUTTING EDGE

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It's not for the squeamish, but cosmetic surgery has taken over from home makeovers on TV

NOT long ago TV documentaries involved preening experts barging through your door to reorganise your living room or garden.

But a wave of new programmes has given fresh meaning to the phrase cutting-edge television. A glut of eye-watering shows about plastic surgery are dominating the schedules.

Five is currently showing a new series of *Cosmetic Surgery Live*, which is attracting large audiences.

The show, hosted by Daily Express columnist Vanessa Feltz, is not for the squeamish as it beams live operations into homes every night with expert commentary by a surgeon.

The current series promises to break new ground – with one form of genital surgery guaranteed to prove difficult viewing. Several more shows on Five include *Brand New You*, in which eight British women

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will be flown out to Los Angeles to be made over by top plastic surgeons, stylists and life coaches. And *Bride and Grooming* features an engaged couple who will be separated before going under the knife and reunited as they walk down the aisle.

ITV1 is showing *Make Me Beautiful, Please*, in which three volunteers go under the knife, and *Celebrity Surgery, Who's Had What Done?*

All the shows have attracted criticism from surgeons for trivialising procedures and putting pressure on women to feel bad about their bodies, but the makers say they show the negative side as well.

Last night Vanessa defended her show. "People are now fascinated by this because they too can get this

done," she said. "It used to be the province of the rich and famous and people thought that's not for the likes of us."

Vanessa, who is joined on the show by Dr Jan Adams and actress Danniella Westbrook, who has also had surgery, added: "If someone is happy with the way they are that is glorious, if not there is help. Singer Toyah Wilcox was open about having a facelift. She was fed up with people saying she looked tired and so she did something and has been delighted and unashamed by the result."

Leading American plastic surgeon Dr Edward Jacobson said: "People look at this kind of surgery as superficial, something for the vanity of bored LA housewives. In fact the patients I help usually have relationship and physical problems and we help them in a very real way."