

SWELL-HEADED!



Gordon Ramsay was hardly recognizable when he was out hiking in Napa, Calif.

TV chef Ramsay BLOWS UP after face-lift & \$50,000 hair transplant

FOUL-MOUTHED TV chef Gordon Ramsay's swollen mug has set tongues wagging that he's undergone cosmetic surgery and overstuffed his face with fillers, leaving it puffier than his pastry.

The 44-year-old Hell's Kitchen tyrant was spotted with soccer star buddy David Beckham just days after grueling, 12-hour hair transplant surgery in Beverly Hills that cost a whopping \$50,000.

"The intensity of the bruising and swelling would suggest a surgical procedure," notes British-based cosmetic surgeon Dr. James McDiarmid. "He may have undergone an eyelid procedure - probably upper lids and possibly lower lids - with or without a mid-face-lift."

Dr. Matthew Schulman, a board certified plastic surgeon and assistant professor of plastic surgery at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, tells GLOBE he also suspects the chef has gone under the knife.

"The bruising and swelling under the eyes indicate lower eyelid surgery to remove the excess skin and bags," says Dr. Schulman. "But fillers or laser therapy in this area would have the same effect."

"Past photos show his face with deep lines and wrinkles along with old acne scarring, especially around the mouth and chin area. Laser resurfacing and injectable fillers may be the reason for his smoother-looking skin. This would also explain the swelling."

But a leading hair transplant expert says Ramsay's red and lumpy look could be the normal aftermath of hair transplant

surgery. During the procedure, a surgeon removes and implants each hair follicle individually.

"It's normal for the face to appear swollen three or four days after a hair transplant surgery," says Dr. Larry Shapiro, of West Palm Beach, Fla., who studied the Dec. 31

photos of the quick-tempered British food wiz.

"We inject Lidocaine as a local anesthetic and saline solution for swelling during the surgery, and then this liquid drains from the scalp in about three days and resolves itself a few days later."

"The fluid drains through the lymphatic system in the face, cheeks, and then through the neck, back to the heart, and exits through the kidneys."

Dr. Toby Mayer, a noted Beverly Hills cosmetic surgeon, agrees.

"It appears that the swelling of the soft tissue seen around the lower eyelids may be caused by the hair transplant procedure as swelling descends down the

face," he says. "We typically put patients on anti-swelling medication to prevent this reaction."

But insiders say Ramsay's no stranger to anti-aging procedures.

"In 2009 he underwent cosmetic surgery to combat facial wrinkles," says a source.

"He's also admitted to being treated with 'dermal fillers' to smooth out crevices in his chin and having Botox injections in his forehead."

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Gordon Ramsay is all puffed up after cosmetic procedures (above) to help erase his wrinkles (right)

