



Volumetric considerations for lower eyelid and midface rejuvenation

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Purpose of review

With the accepted understanding of volume loss as one of the main factors in facial aging, oculo-facial surgeons are embracing the concept of 'removing' less and 'filling' more. The purpose of this review is to present an update of the different alternatives and techniques for lower eyelid and midface restoration/rejuvenation using filler agents.

Recent findings

When a filler agent is chosen, the aim is to provide some lift, support and sculpting to the treated area. Nonpermanent or semi-permanent fillers are most widely accepted by physicians mainly because there is a lower possibility of complications. The involuntional changes in the facial structures are a continuous process; this requires reassessment and variation in techniques in addition to choosing different products at different ages.

Safety, support capability, ease of injection and cost are the factors to consider when choosing an injectable implant. But, physicochemical structure or rheological properties, such as viscosity and elasticity, enable the clinician to objectively select the most appropriate injectable implant depending on the specific anatomical area. An injectable with low viscosity may be ideal for lip enhancement wherein softness is required, whereas a higher viscosity filler or a harder filler may be better indicated for structure and support in the midface.

Summary

Given the wide variety of filler materials available, clinicians and surgeons must be able to select products based on safety, lifting or sculpting capability and rheological properties, such as viscosity and elasticity. These factors provide an objective parameter of how the filler agent will perform in a specific area.

Keywords

lower eyelid filler, midface cosmetic surgery, midface filler, midface implant, midface rejuvenation

INTRODUCTION

Over the past 20 years, surgeons have given particular attention to the aging process of the midface. Several approaches to midface rejuvenation have been discussed, the majority of which require complex surgical techniques.

Midface lifting [1], lower eyelid fat repositioning [2–4], and midface implants [5–7] are volume replacement procedures with a common goal: to create a youthful, lower eyelid-cheek contour. In a growing younger patient population, concern about early periocular aging changes has led to a general preference towards less invasive treatments. This cohort of young patients may lack the indications for more invasive or aggressive procedures.

This review discusses the published experience of several injectors in the treatment of the midface subunits with different filler agents. The work will describe and illustrate, through pictures and videos,

preferred techniques and product selection according to the area to be treated. At the end of each section, a brief description of the more common adverse events and potential serious complications will be detailed along with recommendations on how to avoid or minimize such adverse events.

METHODS

The emphasis of this review is on literature published in the past 12–24 months, but includes more

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