ABSTRACT

Hyaluronic Acid is a well known anti aging agent on a skin care. Needle Shaping and O.F.F is a new anti aging method that combines acupuncture needles and a low intensity electric current. The purpose of this study is to prove that there are innovative wrinkle filler methods which do not use any kind of material or chemical and their results are equally good.

Keywords: Hyaluronic Acid, Needle Shaping, O.F.F, acupuncture, without fillers, wrinkles, face lifting.

Introduction

Needle Shaping is the only microsurgery technique which is able to perform a subcutaneous micro trans-plant and at the same time a bio stimulation, by Prof. Giorgio Fippi (Lecturer of Non Ablative Surgery SIMENCA). With this microsurgery technique it is possible to increase the volume of the lips, the cheekbones and sunken scars without injecting any kind of material or chemical. This is an autotransplantation of tissue by traction, though it might be more appropriate to speak of an acupuncture, through which high tension and limited galvanic current. The mixed currents, strengthened by their synergic action, regulated at such intensity so as to not be perceived by the patient, except in particularly sensitive parts, slightly dehydrate the elastic fibres of the derma and this way they hook onto the needle and principally bind to each other creating a lasting effect. At this point they are delicately wound up into a sort of spindle of autologous material which is visible when moving the needle. The traction exercised must be such as to obtain a certain volume of fibres without these tearing. Liquids are climinated by osmosis due to the saline deprivation caused by the currents to prevent the fibres and the collagen from unwinding.

O.F.F is an electromedical apparatus that uses sinusoidal wave with a foxed frequency of 1230 kHz fractional flow of emission. This frequency was chosen because it produces a series of biological effects that are perfectly suitable for treating a great variety of skin blemished otherwise not treatable apparatuses. This same frequency is used for both therapeutic ultrasound and for radio frequency, but in this case only one active electrode is used without the relative earth, departing thus from the effects of ultrasound and radio frequency. We only use the thermal effect of this programmed flow current to selectively increase the temperature of the tissues without the earth electrode the programmed electric currents supplied by the O.F.F radiate along the external surface of the treated body. This apparatus is totally autonomous from electric mains and this makes it handy to use and not subject to routine annual servicing.

Purpose of the study

The aim of the study is to evaluate efficacy and side effects of hyaluronic acid and needle shaping & O.F.F for face rejuvenation.

Methodology

100 women with moderate and severe nasolabial folds, marionette lines and skin laxity were included in the study. The first group of 50 women was treated with needle shaping and O.F.F. Nine women with autoimmune disease of the second group were also treated with needle shaping and O.F.F because of contraindication for the use of hyaluronic acid. The second group of 41 women was treated with injectable hyaluronic acid.

1st group Demographics:

- 15 of the patients had already tried the hyaluronic acid treatment with satisfying results but wanted something better.
- 32 of them were smokers.
- 9 of them suffering from Autoimmune diseases.
- 1 of them suffering from Rheumatoid arthritis.

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3 of them suffering from Hasimoto’s thyroiditis.
1 of them suffering from Multiple sclerosis.
2 of them suffering from Psoriasis

2nd group Demographics:
- 33 of the patients were smokers.

Duration of each Method:
Needle shaping-O.F.F requires two main sessions per month plus 2 more each one 15 days after each main one, 4 in total repeated every 2-3-6 months depending on the state of the tissue. Each session lasting 25 to 30 minutes. The hyaluronic acid method requires 1 main session and one more 15 days after the main one, repeating every 6 to 8 months. Each session lasting 5-10 minutes. In the first group the same device was used -no consumables- just the doctor operating the equipment. In the second group, 12 women were treated with 3ml of hyaluronic acid for fixing nasolabial fold, cheek, marionette lines and tear trough, 25 women with 1ml into nasolabial fold and the remaining 4 with 2ml one for cheek and one for lip application.

Medical Equipment:
Needle Shaping uses electrical current to fill wrinkles making the skin tight while the O.F.F method induces lipolysis for face and body lifting. No consumables.

The hyaluronic acid treatment is a well known bio compatible method that uses injections to fill wrinkles. Bottles of hyaluronic acid were used and disposed.

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Pain and other side effects

In the 1\textsuperscript{st} group, 12 women were in process of ovulation and due to significant pain, ice was used. Four more women had a pain reaction due to personal sensitivity issues during the procedure. 14 suffered some minor hematoma (recovery time 1-2 days) and 3 suffered severe hematoma (recovery time 12 days).

In the 2\textsuperscript{nd} group, 2 individuals presented pain reaction due to personal sensitivity issues during the procedure, 12 women presented mild hematoma (recovery time 7 days) and 2 other severe hematoma (recovery time 12 days).

Results

One month after treatment 90\% of the Needle Shaping-OFF group reported a very high improvement in skin laxity versus 10\% in the second group. All patients of both groups reported a very high improvement in skin wrinkles of treated areas. There were no side effects in the needle shaping-O.F.F group. 8\% of hyaluronic group reported a tiny sensation of the filler.

The effects of treatment with hyaluronic acid lasted 6 months on the smokers of the second group while the needle shaping-O.F.F method’s results did not have any significant difference as far as the smoking factor is concerned. Women in the first group were a little scared at the beginning so the doctor had to devote 25 to 30 minutes to each patient per session. After the Needle Shaping-O.F.F treatment all 59 of the patients inquired about the application of the same procedure in other places of the body like the neck, arms, thighs, chest, buttock, neckline and the doctor proceeded to giving an affirmative answer.
Conclusion

Needle Shaping and O.F.F is a new method that improves skin laxity and wrinkles of the face without side effects and a very high degree of satisfaction for doctors and patients. It is obvious that the doctor has to take some more time to explain although the method is well approved by the patients once tried. Last but not least, a good percentage from the first group is bound to repeat the procedure in other parts of body resulting in more satisfaction for the patients getting a natural result and more profit for independent doctor.

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