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Analyzing the effects of facial fat fills as explained by an animal study: The effect of lipo-aspirate on wound healing

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Background: Adipose derived stem cells have been shown to have multiple regenerative properties including accelerated wound healing. Stem cells are harvested, purified and cultured to provide an adequate cellular yield. This isolation process required large financial contributions, trained laboratory staff, intensive procedure utilizing multiple purification solutions and expensive equipment. The aim of the study was to investigate the effect of simple lipo-aspirate on wound healing without stem cell cultivation, thereby reducing the cost but still maintaining the adipose stem cell advantage.

Methodology: This is a prospective, interventional animal study to investigate the effect of lipo-aspirate on wound healing. Histological evaluation will be discussed.

Results: Evaluation shows accelerated wound healing with the treatment of adipose tissue compared to control wounds. Wound healing markers such as epidermal growth, new vessel formation, new collagen formation was all statistically significantly increased. The bacteriology results showed no significant differences and fat treated wounds had a clear histological advantage compared to control wounds. From the histological analysis it appears that fat changes the architecture of the underlying dermis. Analyzing the before and after pictures of patients having received facial fat fills shows the textural changes seen with facial fat fills in facial rejuvenation. 30-50 patients will be discussed as well as management of associated complications.

Conclusion: Facial fat fills aid facial rejuvenation in a process like lipo-assisted wound healing as shown in an animal model.

Biography

Marisse Venter is a successful, highly qualified Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon. She has a special interest in breast reconstruction and cosmetic surgery. She is the only female Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon in the Breast Care Centre of Excellence at Netcare Milpark Hospital. She qualified from the University of Cape Town in 2002 and her specialization encompassed 4 years of general surgery and a further 4 years of plastic surgery at the University of the Witwatersrand from where she qualified as a plastic surgeon. In 2004 she completed 1-year military training in North West Mafikeng & Potchefstroom at the Military health units. She was also an Acting Consultant at the Helen Joseph Hospital, teaching breast reconstruction to training doctors.

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