Greetings my AACS Friends,

It seems like I just wrote the spring editorial and now we are moving into the fall season. Wow, the months sure do fly by. I remember once seeing a picture of a 6 year old talking to a 90 year old. The caption related that one year was 1/6 of the young person’s life but only 1/90 of the older person. Obviously, the years are all the same length, but relative to our age, they sure do seem to pass faster.

In the last issue, I profiled Google Glass in a tech update and, for this issue, I have another really cool and useful device to profile.

**AccuVein is a handheld device about the size of a TV remote that is used to view the superficial veins on the body.**

The device is rechargeable and sits in a small charging cradle when not in use. The viewer works by projecting a visible and invisible laser wavelength which “magically” shows the venous anatomy in a manner similar to how bones look on an X-Ray. The technology is really cool in that the veins really do jump out at you. Doctors, staff and patients like to play with this device because it shows a view that is not traditionally seen.

So, OK, you have a device that shows the veins. Besides being an anatomy aid, what does it do? It actually is quite useful in a cosmetic practice for numerous tasks. I use it to view veins when starting IV’s not only to assist me, but to give the patient more confidence. It has been especially useful for difficult IV access.

**One of the other ways I use this device is to avoid veins. When injecting fillers, especially in the tear trough, nasolabial folds and lips, it is very useful to avoid “invisible” veins to prevent intravascular injection and bruising. I also use it in the lateral canthal region to avoid the veins that can easily bruise and make unhappy patients. Again, I also like to show the device to patients and let them play with it on their own hands. In my experience, patients love new technology and, through word of mouth, tell their friends how their doctor is special.**
Although I only perform head and neck surgery, it is obvious how helpful this device would be in treating varicose veins and other venous vascular applications.

Like the changes in medicine due to new technologies, our Academy is also undergoing a change. I think we will look back at this time as the AACS Renaissance. I encourage all members to bring in a new member and if you know any members who have quit, to encourage them to return as we have many new and exciting changes in store for our members.

Have a great Autumn,

Joe Niamtu, III, DMD