

Aesthetic Practitioner News

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Polyacrylamide Hydrogel Filler Shows Promise

At six months post-treatment, the investigational agent was as effective as hyaluronic acid in easing nasolabial folds

BY JILL STEIN

PHOENIX—Polyacrylamide hydrogel, an investigational filler, is as effective as hyaluronic acid (HA) for aesthetic enhancement of nasolabial folds six months after the final treatment, according to the results of a phase 3 trial announced here at the 2009 American Society for Dermatologic Surgery annual meeting. In addition, researchers say it retains its effectiveness at least 12 months after the final treatment.

Because polyacrylamide hydrogel is non-resorbable and non-migrational, it offers promise as a long-lasting tissue filler, investigators said.

Rhoda S. Narins, M.D., Clinical Professor of Dermatology at New York University School of Medicine, and colleagues randomized 315 men and women in a 2:1 design to receive 2.5% polyacrylamide hydrogel or HA. Patients were allowed up to two touch-up treatments. The study was conducted at 13 sites in the United States, each of which contributed 19 to 33 patients.

"While soft-tissue augmentation with injectable fillers are now the standard approach to correct age-related facial defects, extending the duration



Luba V. Nef/Dreamstime

of effect remains an ongoing goal in the development of soft-tissue fillers," said Dr. Narins, Director of the Dermatologic Surgery and Laser Center of New York.

Polyacrylamide hydrogel acts as a tissue substitute, occupying extracellular space and augmenting skin and underlying tissue that is depleted due to aging. The filler does not migrate within the tissue after injection because of its large molecular size and high cohesive properties.

FILLER, see page 9

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Botulinum Toxin Gel May Improve Lateral Canthal Lines

BOSTON—An investigational botulinum toxin A (BoNT-A) topical gel can significantly improve the appearance of moderate to severe lateral canthal lines (LCLs), according to a study presented here at the American Academy of Dermatology's 2009 Summer Academy Meeting.

The gel, called RT001, combines a novel peptide transport system that facilitates transcutaneous delivery without altering toxin function. An adequate concentration of this peptide is necessary to achieve efficacy in improving LCLs,

according to investigator Francisco Perez Atamoros, MD, of Centros Dermatologicos Tennyson in Mexico City.

He conducted a randomized, controlled study involving 77 adults with moderate to severe LCLs. Subjects had a mean age of 49.2 years (range 28-65 years). They were assigned to one of two cohorts (cohort 1 and cohort 2). In each cohort, subjects received placebo or a single 1.65 ng

BOTULINUM, see page 9

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Adding Lidocaine to a Filler Eases Injection Site Pain

Investigators find that this approach significantly reduces post-injection pain compared with using topical anesthetic prior to treatment

BOSTON—Premixing Dermicol-P35 27G—a porcine collagen-derived dermal filler that uses novel ribose cross-linking technology—with lidocaine is an effective alternative to the use of topical anesthetic for treating nasolabial fold (NLF) wrinkles, researchers reported at the American Academy of Dermatology's 2009 Summer Academy Meeting.

In a study, this combination significantly reduced pain associated with injection and both patients and clinicians reported decreased wrinkle severity and a low incidence of adverse events. Previous studies have demonstrated that adding lidocaine directly to a dermal filler such as calcium hydroxylapatite and hyaluronic acid prior to injection decreases injection discomfort.

The new study, by Melanie D. Palm, M.D., and Mitchel P. Goldman, M.D., of Cosmetic Laser Associates of La Jolla in La Jolla, Calif., included 10 patients (nine women and one man) with NLF wrinkles. Their mean age was 51 years. Subjects received injections with the filler in both NLFs. On the left side of the face, a topical anesthetic cream (lidocaine 5%) was applied to clean skin in a 1/8 inch layer and left in place for 30 minutes prior to injection. On the right side of the face, patients were injected with a mixture of the filler and 0.3% lidocaine that was prepared 10

LIDOCANE, see page 8

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BY THE NUMBERS

More Men Seeking Aesthetic Procedures

Overall, the number of non-invasive aesthetic procedures performed in men more than doubled from 2005 to 2008, rising from 84,447 to 170,663 procedures during that four-year period, according to statistics compiled by the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery. Shown here are the procedures with the largest percentage increases during that period.

Source: Data from the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery 2008 Procedural Census



