Facial implants seen as vital cog in full rejuvenation

By Rebecca Bryant
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hollywood, Fla.—Advanta facial implants are the most advanced filling technology available, and the missing link in completing a full-facial rejuvenation in a minimally invasive way, according to Jim Gilmore, M.D., FACS, FICS.

“You can reshape the jaw, the midface, and the neck, but there’s still a lot of aging around the mouth,” said Dr. Gilmore. “The question is: ‘What kind of material is available?’ In the past, materials were temporary, irregular, or hard. We have a new generation of injectables, like Restylane, recently FDA approved, but they are not permanent fillers. Collagen is very good, but it too, has to be replaced.”

A facial plastic and cosmetic surgeon with a practice in Dallas, Texas, Dr. Gilmore has performed more than 500 Advanta procedures in approximately 150 anatomical sites. “I’ve been very pleased with the product,” he said. “This is the best in the ePTFE group, because of softness. Patients want correction, but they want to feel natural.” Advanta facial implants are constructed from expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE) by Atrium Medical Corp. The technology has been successfully used in arterial grafts and in the reconstruction of arteries for more than 30 years. What makes Advanta different from earlier ePTFE products is its architecture: a highly porous center surrounded by a smooth outer envelope of medium porosity.

Dr. Gilmore considers the implant permanent because its architecture facilitates biointegration. Over time, blood vessels and collagen grow in and through the porous material in a more natural healing response. Furthermore, this material parallels that of the human body.

He described Advanta as a soft material available in cylindrical, round, or oval forms. He uses the alloplastic for rejuvenation of the naso-labial, mandibulolabial, lips, glabellar, and other facial areas. “The greatest advantage is the lips and the corners of the mouth,” he said.

Dr. Gilmore implants the filler under local or sedation anesthesia. To augment or fill a lip, he makes a tiny incision in the corner of the mouth and glides the material through subcutaneous tunnels, closing with sutures or tissue glue.

The surgeon has devised a procedure, coined the “ml-croisade” (ml for mandibulolabial; croisade, the French word for cross) to fill problematic drool lines. “You fill in the ‘drool’ line and at right angles to it,” he said.

Material tolerated well

Based on follow-up patient surveys, Dr. Gilmore reported an 86 percent satisfaction rate. “The material is well-tolerated,” he said. “I’ve had no nerve injuries, an asymmetry rate of under one percent, and an infection rate of under one percent.” Unlike other fillers and augments, if there is a complication or if a patient is dissatisfied, Advanta can be easily removed.

The surgeon recommended against double implantation in the same implant site. “You can’t predict how it’ll align,” he said. “There may be certain disease sites that are contraindications to implantation,” reports Dr. Gilmore.

Dr. Gilmore believes surgeons should use every modality possible to prevent infections. “After saturating implants with antibiotics,” he said, “I irrigate and carefully close, using very sterile techniques. I put patients on antibiotics before and during implantation, and prescribe a course afterwards. They are also on an antiviral for two days before the procedure and for a week afterward.”

When asked if the intense antibacterial strategy would build patients’ resistance to antibiotics, he responded that the preventative treatment was of short duration, and for that reason, should not have negative consequences to the patient’s future response to antibiotics.

“Advanta is a significant advancement in natural-feeling fillers that appears to have low morbidity and high patient satisfaction where permanency is the issue. This technology affords the opportunity for definitive correction without the need for repeated treatments,” Dr. Gilmore said.

Dr. Gilmore reported that he has no financial interest in Atrium Medical Corporation or its products.

For more information on this article and Advanta facial implants visit:
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*Data on file: Atrium Medical Corp.

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Atrium Medical Corporation
5 Wentworth Drive
Hudson, NH 03051 U.S.A.
Phone: 603-880-1433
Fax: 603-880-5718

Atrium Medical Corporation
Rendementsweg 24, LIII
3641 St. Mijdrecht,
The Netherlands
Phone +31-297-230-420
Fax +31-297-230-422

Atrium Australia-Pacific Rim Pty. Ltd.
L1 Bridgepoint
3 Brady Street
Mosman NSW 2088 Australia
Phone +61-2-9960-0169
Fax +61-2-9969-2735

www.atriummed.com