



Complications Caused by Facial Lifting with PDO Threads

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Some time ago, among several types of publications, such as Editorials, Opinions, Review Article and Letter to the Editor, we presented our philosophy against the specialty recently created in Brazil and that has been contaminating other countries, especially in Europe, carried by Brazilian professors: Orofacial Harmonization [1-9].

Orofacial Harmonization comprises facial esthetic techniques and procedures such as application of botulinum toxin and facial fillers (hyaluronic acid); facial lifting (polydioxanone thread); bichectomy (buccal fat pad reduction); percutaneous collagen inducers (micro needling); biophotonic procedures and/or laser therapy; autologous blood derivatives; hormonal regulation; facial lipoplasty, by chemical, physical or mechanical techniques; and surgical techniques for lip correction (liplifting) [4-7].

We have published an article on the possible risks of using facial fillers for non-medical health professionals [8]. Another literature review carried out by our group points out the risks of using hyaluronidase as a therapeutic measure in the face of ischemic and necrotic complications resulting from the application of hyaluronic acid in cosmetic procedures performed by dentists [9].

Despite the great notoriety for cosmetic applications, the effect of therapeutic applications of botulinum toxin can not be underestimated, since it is a drug [5].

Firstly used since 1998, the use of threads for suspension and facial rejuvenation has been improved, with several techniques and procedures. Originally, some patients did not accept the insertion of non-absorbable and permanent threads permeating the facial soft tissue. This initial condition generated the need for the development of absorbable threads, such as polydioxanone (PDO) threads [10].

The procedure constitutes a small incision on the skin, for the passage with facial and neck subcutaneous threads, to compensate the flaccidity of the tissues and facial ptosis, avoiding large incisions and reducing recovery time, in comparison to plastic surgery procedures on the face. There are several types of threads and their respective functions: smooth, that stimulate collagen, but do not promote facelift; spiculated, conical, or screws, with claws, that promote tissue suspension and consequently the rejuvenating effect [10,11].

Although much speculated by the lay media, there is little information in the medical literature about safety, efficacy, longevity, techniques, and possible complications. Despite being considered a minimally invasive procedure, complications such as erythema and edema; bleeding and hematoma; neuropathic disorders with pain, tingling, and itching; hardening of the tissue around the thread; formation of papules; exit of the thread end into the skin (As observed in figure 1); infections; skin relief disorders; irregularities, retractions, temporary facial asymmetries, and scars; can occur. The common fact to all techniques and types of threads is the inflammatory response and production of fibrosis around them [10,11].

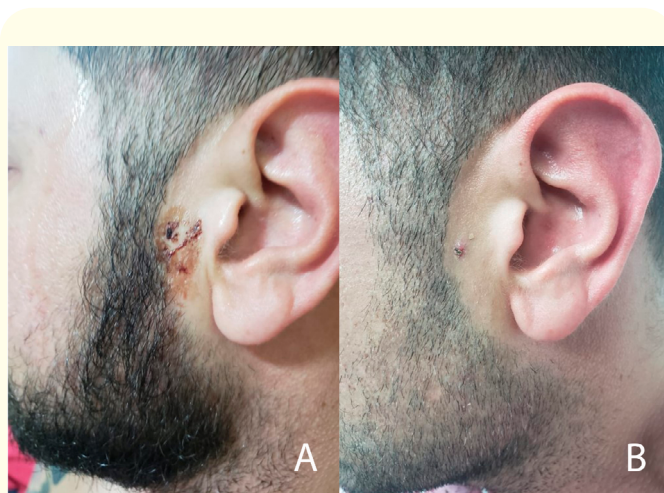


Figure 1

Future studies are needed on the biomechanical and biochemical reactions of threads, even if they are absorbable and stimulate collagen production, as well as on the most appropriate techniques and reproducibility, independent of the performer. Long-lasting results and side effects should also be reported. And mainly, what is the nature and biological behavior of the adjacent threads against the mimic muscles and their repetitive movements. Additionally, if the presence of the threads, even absorbable, will interfere in aesthetic or reconstructive procedures in the future.

It is important to emphasize that this space promoted by SAODS (Editorial) is fundamental to spread correct and true information to the colleagues and readers dental surgeon. These, subsequently, can benefit their patients and the community, offering better therapeutic options or, sometimes, even declining the procedure and guiding the patient to the best treatment, perhaps with other health professionals.

Our intention is not to depreciate Dentistry. On the contrary, to value our profession, above all by respecting our patients.

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