

LIPOWATCH[®]

NEWS

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The LipoWatch program from Visionary Health Concepts is designed to support providers and patients with education that integrates a "real world" focus with scientific data. This month we discuss restorative procedures for facial wasting. NOTE: LipoWatch faxes are archived on the web at http://www.vhconcepts.com/edu_progs.cfm.

Facial wasting is arguably the most stigmatizing aspect of the lipodystrophy syndromeⁱ. One study found patients willing to accept an increased risk of death to avoid lipodystrophyⁱⁱ. Although d4T is most strongly associated with facial wasting, no drug therapy or change in antiviral therapy is effective in treating facial wasting. Exercising facial muscles, however, was reported to cause hypertrophy, partially off-setting fat wastingⁱⁱⁱ.

Most attention has focused on various surgical procedures to replace lost facial fat. Numerous fill materials have been used, with varying degrees of success. Minimally invasive procedures with a durable cosmetic result, few complications or allergic reactions, short recovery time and reasonable cost are key factors in defining "success".

Autologous fat transfer, via liposuction, is a well-known technique. Depending on the fat harvesting requirements, either general or local anesthesia is employed. Excess harvested fat can be frozen for future adjustments. Unfortunately, many HIV-positive patients have little or no fat to harvest. Autologous fat implants only last a few months to a year before reabsorption.

Solid fillers require a more invasive procedure to implant, and provide a "fixed" contour within the body. With continued facial wasting, the implant edges become unpleasantly visible. Risks of complications and infection are greater than for injectable fillers. Solid implants, however, are removable.

A community meeting held in San Diego in September 2002^{iv} focused on four injectable products for facial wasting that claim durable results: Artecoll, BioAlcamid, NewFill and SiSkin (microdroplet silicone).

Artecoll^v consists of polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) microspheres with a collagen carrier. The body's own collagen encapsulates each sphere as the injected collagen is absorbed. For wrinkles, most patients need touch-up treatments; the deeper creases of facial wasting require repeated treatments. Artecoll is currently in clinical trials. The manufacturer anticipates FDA approval in 2003.

BioAlcamid^{vi} is a biopolymer consisting of 3% polyalkylimide suspension in water. It is non-allergenic, non-mutagenic, permanent but easily removable. Large quantities can be implanted and it has been investigated as a gluteal filler. It is not available in the US but can be obtained through a clinic in Tijuana, Mexico^{vii}.

NewFill^{viii}, a polylactic acid product, has become a popular filler for HIV-related facial wasting in Europe. It has been used for over 40 years in reconstructive surgery and is approved for correction of wrinkles in the European Union. NewFill stimulates collagen production, leading to increased skin thickness. A study of 30 patients in

England found only minor side effects and improvements in self-assessed appearance, anxiety and depression^x. A NewFill clinical trial is open for recruitment in Hermosa Beach, California^x.

SiSkin[®] is liquid injectable silicone (LIS). Microdroplets injected at multiple points are eventually surrounded by the body's own collagen. LIS is currently in clinical trials in the US for treatment of HIV-related facial atrophy. Although LIS claims to address the problems of injectable silicone, liquid silicone is not FDA-approved except for intraocular injection to treat retinal detachment. Side effects of liquid silicone injection can include migration of the fill material, tissue inflammation and discoloration, and granuloma formation^{xi}.

Injectables offering only temporary results are primarily hyaluronic acid gels, or bovine, porcine or autologous collagen products. Non-autologous collagen products cause an allergic reaction in about 3% of patients. Cost ranges from around \$750 per session to several thousand dollars for extensive filling. Results typically last 3 to 6 months, making these products impractical for cases of extensive facial wasting.

Most injectables entail a series of injections that require special training for optimal results and treatment of side effects.^{xii} Cost and access are major factors in the correction of facial wasting, but given its impact on self-image, anxiety and depression, those with the means may continue to seek out these corrective procedures, even if they entail travel to Mexico or Europe. ■

ⁱOette M, Juretzko P, Kroidl A et al., Lipodystrophy Syndrome and Self-Assessment of Well-Being and Physical Appearance in HIV-Positive Patients. *AIDS Patient Care and STDs* 2002, 16:9, 413-417.

ⁱⁱLenert L, Feddersen M, Sturley A, Lee D. Adverse Effects of Medications and Trade-offs between Length of Life in Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection. *American Journal of Medicine*, 2002, 113:229-232.

ⁱⁱⁱVasques V, Garcia M, Cortes E. A new proposal to deal with facial lipodystrophy. In: Program and abstracts of the XIV International AIDS Conference; July 7-12, 2002; Barcelona, Spain. Abstract WePeC6257.

^{iv}More information on facial fillers is available at www.facialwasting.org

^vCompany web site: <http://www.artecoll-usa.com>

^{vi}Company web site: <http://www.bioalcamid.com/>

^{vii}Clínica Estética web site: <http://www.clinicestetica.com/>

^{viii}Company web site: <http://www.new-fill.com/>

^{ix}Moyle G, Lysakova L, Brown S and Barton S, Polylactate (New Fill) Injections Subjectively and Objectively Improve Appearance and Reduce Anxiety and Depression Scores in HIV Positive Persons with Facial Lipoatrophy: A Randomised, Open Label, Immediate vs. Delayed Therapy Study. In: Program and Abstracts of the 42nd

Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy; September 27-30, 2002; San Diego, CA. Abstract H-1934.

^xFor more information on the clinical trial of NewFill contact Dr. Douglas Mest at 1-877-374-0347

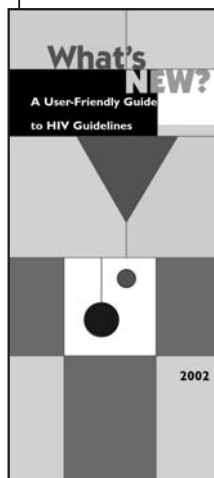
^{xi}FDA and Collagen and Liquid Silicone Injections, available on the Internet at <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/backgrounders/collagen.html>

^{xii}The American Society of Plastic Surgeons maintains a search page at <http://www.plasticsurgery.org/lookup/search.cfm> to locate member surgeons.



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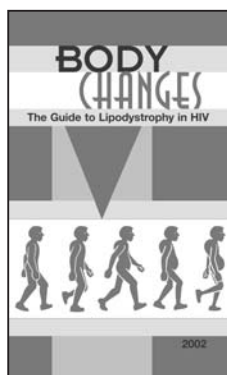
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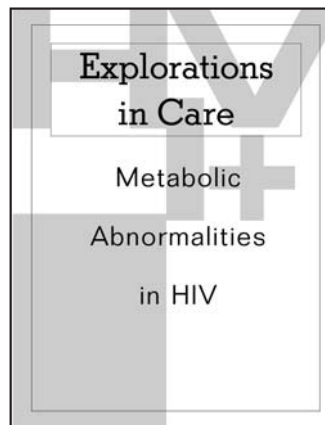
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