Help Lips Shape Up With Proper Use of Fillers

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PHOENIX, ARIZ. — The lip that is enhanced with filler should meet definable proportions and yet retain its individuality, Arnold W. Klein, M.D., said at a clinical dermatology conference sponsored by Medicis.

"Lips are about volume but more importantly shape. Any enhancement must be undetectable," said Dr. Klein, who holds a dermatology chair in his name at the University of California, Los Angeles' David Geffen School of Medicine.

Lip augmentation requires fillers to increase facial volume in a subtle and aesthetically pleasing manner, he said. It is not about "simply eradicating lines."

The lower third of the aging face, including the lip, is the area least amenable to plastic surgery. Along with the thinning of both lips, he cited prominent labial mandibular grooves, the ends of the upper lips hanging down, loss of bone support from dentition and from the mandible, and decreased vertical support, he said.

According to Dr. Klein's formulation of the aesthetic lip: "The length of the closed, relaxed mouth should equal the distance between the medial aspect of the irises in the well-proportioned face." In addition, the ratio of the upper lip to the lower lip should be 1:1.6.

When the head is photographed in a postural position with a relaxed mouth, an interpupillary line drawn horizontally across the eyes should be parallel to a horizontal commissural line drawn where the lips meet.

Dr. Klein cited other characteristic facial landmarks including curvature of the dorsum and angulation of the nose. He said the base of the nose should be 18-20 mm above the upper lip, whereas the recommended distance between the lower lip and the chin is 36 mm.

Looking at the postural head position in...
The Glogau-Klein point shows dimensions of the aesthetic lip.

Plasma Method
Irons Out Lines
And Acne Scars

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA. — Plasma skin resurfacing reduces acne scars and fine lines while minimizing downtime and adverse events, according to data presented at the annual meeting of the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery.

"Plasma skin regeneration provides an effective long-term facial rejuvenation for acne scarring and fine lines," said M. Potter, M.D., of RAFT Institute of Plastic Surgery in London.

In this study, Dr. Potter treated a total of 11 patients (10 women)—3 for acne scars, 7 for fine lines, and 1 patient for both. The treatment was performed under anesthesia. Energy varied between 1 and 4 J.

All patients were assessed at 10 days and 3 and 6 months post treatment. "A precise measure of skin irregularity was recorded using silicon molds. ...Wrinkle depth was assessed using a light microscope technique to give an accurate measurement," Dr. Potter said.

In patients with fine lines, the mean pretreatment wrinkle depth was 0.23 mm. At 10 days, there was a mean improvement in wrinkle depth of 39%. At 6 months, mean improvement was 24%. "Acne is always difficult to treat, but these patients had an improvement of 35% at 10 days and 23% at 6 months," Dr. Potter said.

—Kerri Wachter