**Skin cancer patient undergoing a quasi-Mohs procedure. From left to right: malignant lesion is excised; curettage ensures clear margins; a rotational flap closes wound.**

**Simpler Alternative May Work in Place of Mohs**

**BY JEFF EVANS**
Senior Writer

**QUEBEC CITY** — A quasi-Mohs micrographic surgery procedure involving excision and curettage with pathologic analysis of margins may be a practical way of treating skin cancer patients in areas that don't have access to Mohs surgeons, Louis Weatherhead, M.B., M.A., said at the annual conference of the Canadian Dermatology Association.

“It may be a way in Canada, we do not have access to Mohs surgery,” said Dr. Weatherhead, director of surgical dermatology at the University of Ottawa.

“Many plastic surgeons in the Ottawa region will not deal with a skin malignancy,” he said. The alternative to Mohs surgery, which Dr. Weatherhead teaches to his residents in Ottawa, is to “do the surgical procedure, that you might have a positive margin,” he said, “in which case, then, many times in [basal cell carcinomas] you have to determine the amount of involvement and whether or not you’re going to go back and do surgery or just observe, because in many instances the healing gets rid of residual tumor.”

The first step of the procedure is “like doing your first Mohs cut,” Dr. Weatherhead said, because it involves tangentially excising the lesion and submitting the specimen for pathologic—but not immediate—analysis. But the similarity between the procedure and Mohs stops there, because “we don’t have the facility to continue.”

Curettage is performed to remove any residual tumor up to normal tissue and to delineate the borders of the tumor. Following hemostasis of the wound, Dr. Weatherhead excises a surgical margin of about 3-4 mm. The specimen obtained from that excision is then sent for pathologic analysis of the margin. The dermatologist chooses a method to close the wound depending on the location and size of the defect.

**Radio Frequency Plus Vacuum May Lessen Wrinkles Tx Pain**

**BY PATRICE WENDLING**
Chicago Bureau

**PARIS** — A new device that uses vacuum suction in combination with radio frequency painlessly treats facial lines and wrinkles, Michael H. Gold, M.D., reported at the Fourth International Academy of Cosmetic Dermatology World Congress.

Radio frequency (RF) devices have been used successfully over the last 5 years to improve skin texture and laxity, but their use has been limited because patients complain the treatments are too painful, said Dr. Gold of Nashville, Tenn.

Efforts have been made with varying degrees of success to reduce the pain by changing machine parameters, using multiple passes at lower power, or by incorporating RF with intense pulsed light devices. General anesthesia or intravenous medications have been used, but few patients have been willing to incur the associated risks.

The new bipolar RF device, Aluma Skin, has been shown to be 80% effective in wrinkle improvement, said Dr. Gold of Nashville, Tenn.

The following alterations of laboratory tests have been reported:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Effect on Salicylate Levels</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alkaline phosphatase</td>
<td>Decreased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alanine transaminase</td>
<td>Decreased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspartate transaminase</td>
<td>Decreased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilirubin</td>
<td>Decreased</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creatinine</td>
<td>Decreased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactate dehydrogenase</td>
<td>Decreased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein</td>
<td>Decreased</td>
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**Indications and Use**

For Dermatologic Use: Salex™ Lotion is a topical keratolytic agent. It is an effective treatment for keratinocytic hyperproliferative lesions, including keratosis pilaris, seborrhoea, xerosis and actinic keratosis. Salex™ Lotion is also used for the treatment of actinic keratoses, scars, cutaneous mycosis fungoides, and seborrheic dermatitis.

**Contraindications**

Salez™ Lotion should not be used in any patient who is sensitive to salicylic acid or any other ingredient contained in the product. Salex™ Lotion should not be used in the eyes or on sensitive skin.

**Warnings**

For people of large and large skin, crusting is in the area and these patients with significant hand or head injury or wounds, for example, may have an increased risk of dermatitis.

**Precautions**

For external only. Avoid contact with eyes and other mucous membranes.

**Drug Interactions**

The following interactions are associated with salicylic acid:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Interaction</th>
<th>Effect on Salicylate Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aspirin</td>
<td>Increased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warfarin</td>
<td>Increased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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**Radio Frequency Plus Vacuum**

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