

Decision making in facial wasting rehabilitation

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Introduction: The development of effective antiretroviral therapies for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) has drastically changed management for infected patients, with treatment approaches now similar to those of chronic disease rather than fatal illness. As rates of opportunistic infections and other conditions associated with immunodeficiency are minimized, patients are able to live longer, more fulfilling lives. However, these therapies are not without side effects, some of which can be quite debilitating. A medication-associated condition that has become prevalent among HIV-infected patients is HIV-associated lipodystrophy. The physical features of the condition, especially facial lipoatrophy, also known as facial wasting, can have a significant psychological impact on affected patients, both in serving as a visible reminder of the disease and in association with the social stigma of HIV infection.

Material and Methods: Between July 2007 and January 2012, 89 patients (52M, 37F) affected by facial wasting where treated at the Head & Neck Dept., II Univ. of Naples, with structural fat graft, permanent and semi-permanent dermal fillers. Pre and post operative photos were taken to compare the results during the follow up.

Results: An high degree of satisfaction was reached in all the cases, no maior complications were registered.

Conclusion: Because of the decrease in morbidity and mortality associated with HIV infection, an increasing number of people with HIV receiving highly active antiretroviral therapy are presenting to facial plastic surgeons requesting the improvement of the side effects of their treatment protocol.

Authors presents their experience in facial wasting rehabilitation and discuss about the decision making process between structural fat graft, permanent and semi-permanent dermal fillers.

Biography

Raffaele Rauso obtained his medical degree at 24 y.o., after that he performed a 5 years training in Cranio-Maxillo-Facial Surgery at the Second University of Naples (Italy), during that period he also performed 2 fellowship in Plastic Reconstructive and Cranio-Maxillo-Facial Surgery; one at the Univeritätsspital of Basel (Switzerland), and another at the G.S.R. Insitute in Hyderabad (India). Once he became consultant in Cranio-Maxillo-Facial Surgery, he obtained a Master's degree in Aesthetic Surgery at the University of Milan. He has published several papers in the most reputed journals in Cranio-Facial and Plastic Reconstructive Aesthetic Surgery; He is reviewer for several scientific medical journals, and is full member of E.A.F.P.S. (European Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery), and E.A.C.M.F.S. (European Association for Cranio-Maxillo-Facial Surgeons). Nowadays is Associate Professor in Cranio-Facial deformities at the University of Foggia (Italy).

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