



THE FACELIFT OF THE FUTURE – Stem Cells in Facial Rejuvenation

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The facelift is still the gold standard of facial rejuvenation. It is perceived as one of the key procedures that evolves over the span of a surgeon's career, as he or she develops a better understanding of what constitutes a youthful face and gains confidence and experience. Eventually, the surgeon will come to add his or her personal signature to conventional methods. Dr. Sam Rizk's, M.D., F.A.C.S. foremost goals are a natural and long-lasting result and a rapid recovery.

Consumers seeking to regain the plump, smooth skin of their youth are attracted to the newest generation of facelift procedures, called the Stem Cell Facelift. When used in conjunction with Dr. Rizk's 3D high-definition technology, the result is a youthful glowing face with appropriate definition coupled with rapid recovery. His variation of a Stem Cell Facelift offers a novel approach to facial rejuvenation. It manifests as a two-part procedure: a modified deep plane facelift using 3D telescopic technology, plus fat grafting. The patient's own fat is harvested from donor areas such as the hips, abdomen, or thighs, and then injected into facial areas that need extra volume or fullness. This technique allows Dr. Rizk to address the two main conditions associated with facial aging: sagging neck and jowls (facelift) plus volume loss to fill out fat-depleted areas (cell enhanced fat transfer).

Dr. Rizk believes using the patient's own fat is superior to using synthetic or commercially available dermal fillers because it has the potential to last longer. In many cases, 50 percent of the grafted fat can last five years or longer. Because it is the patient's own tissue, there is no risk of reaction or rejection, and most patients have an adequate supply of fat to obtain the grafts from. There is also substantial evidence that fat contains adult stem cells which may enhance its ability to rejuvenate the quality and texture of the skin and promote healing. The use of stem cells from fat is currently being investigated around the world for the treatment of many conditions including cardiovascular disease, soft tissue defects, and wound healing.

Combining surgery with fat transfer delivers the dual benefit of volumization, plus the additional possibility of enhanced collagen production. The methods used for harvesting the fat as well as processing have never been standardized among practitioners. Dr. Rizk has recently begun to utilize PureGraft 250 from Cytori Therapeutics, San Diego, California. The PureGraft fat grafting system is the only FDA approved device in the U.S. that was designed for removing and preparing a patient's own fat for re-injection. Up until now, fat grafting methods and results varied widely among practitioners. Common complications have included skin irregularities, contour defects, prolonged bruising and swelling, as well as inconsistent outcomes and duration of results. PureGraft has proven beneficial to standardize the process of rapid fat transfer by delivering more predictable outcomes and accuracy. PureGraft allows me to clean the patient's fat quickly, filter out blood and other unwanted debris, leaving it sterile and pure.

Learn more about facelifts at www.faceliftonline.com