CASE SERIES

Intra-Operative Use Followed With Post-Op Application Of Polymeric Membrane Dressings* Reduces Post-Op Pain, Edema and Bruising After Full Face Lift Surgery

Daniel Man MD, Paul Aleksinko, MD | Dr. Man Aesthetic Surgery Center | Boca Raton, Florida 33486 USA

PURPOSE:

Pain, bruising, edema, delayed healing, and infections can be complications from face lift surgery. Minimizing or eliminating these potential complications facilitates early return to normal daily activities as well as optimizes the desired final outcomes from the procedures.

RATIONALE:

Polymeric membrane dressings help reduce edema, pain, and inflammation when applied to burns, abrasions and other wounds. The dressings have also been shown to reduce inflammation, edema, bruising and pain when applied over injury sites where the skin is unbroken, such as sprains, strains and contusions. The dressings have been shown to decrease inflammation by altering the nociceptor response at and around the injury site. The nociceptor response to injury results in edema, bruising and inflammation as well as the sensations of pain, itching and burning at and around the site of injury.

METHODS:

Retrospective case series analysis was performed on 24 patients undergoing face lift surgeries combined with fractional laser resurfacing. Prior to the procedure the ears were covered with a "cap" made with polymeric membrane dressings. The blepharoplasty incisions were covered immediately after each procedure with polymeric membrane dressings. In the same manner, once a section of the face was completed, polymeric membrane dressings were applied to reduce bruising, edema and inflammation while the other side was being lifted. At the conclusion of the case, the temporary polymeric membrane dressings were removed and discarded. A total contact face mask was created from the dressings.

The dressings applied at the end of the case were changed initially at 24 hrs. The dressings were continued for up to 2 weeks post-op.

The results were evaluated compared to the historical outcomes achieved by the practice's historical practices which included: rinses of saline, water, vinegar and antibacterial soap to clean the wounds; antibacterial ointment was then applied.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Outline the common complications commonly associated with face lift surgery.
2. Recognize that polymeric membrane dressings directly address edema, bruising and inflammation as well as the sensations of pain, itching and burning even if the skin is not wounded.
3. Illustrate the benefits of using polymeric membrane dressings intra-operatively in order to reduce the edema, bruising and inflammation that occur from the time the specific area is operated on until the close of the case.

*PolyMem® Dressings are made by
Ferris Mfg. Corp., Burr Ridge, IL 60527 USA
800.POLYMEM (765.9636) • www.polymem.com

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RESULTS:

The face lift procedures were performed on 4 males and 20 females with an average age of 60-years (range 45-80). The use of the polymeric membrane dressings resulted in significant reduction in bruising, drainage, edema, and eliminated scabbing, which helps eliminate risk of scarring and infections. Use of the dressings reduced the normally anticipated post procedure skin redness. After application of the dressings, the patients' faces and necks were pain-free allowing patients to greatly reduce and often eliminate post-procedure pain medication. The use of the dressings shortened the healing time by one-half. The expected post-procedure severe ear pain was greatly reduced and in many cases completely eliminated.

CONCLUSIONS:

The dressings optimized the final outcome in a shorter amount of time and the patients were much more comfortable during the recovery period. Polymeric membrane dressings are now a standard part of face lift procedures.

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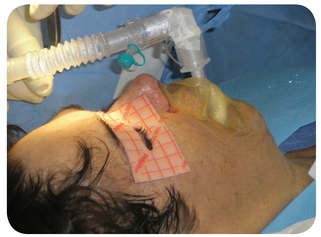
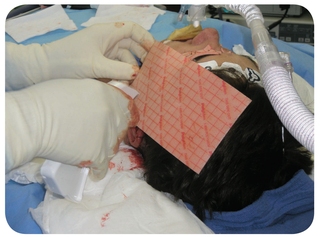
EXAMPLE OF INTRA-OPERATIVE AND POST-OP APPLICATION:



Polymeric membrane dressing applied immediately after blepharoplasty



Polymeric membrane dressing applied immediately after the side was completed. (Note: "ear caps" formed out of polymeric membrane dressings were used in subsequent cases)

4 hours after initial photo, at the close of the case, the intra-operative dressings were removed. Note how little bruising and edema has occurred.

Application of dressing at close of case. Notice the care used in conforming the dressing to the face in order to assure direct dressing contact in all areas to achieve maximum benefit.

TYPICAL OUTCOMES:

PRE-OP | 24 HRS | 21 DAYS

Before and after pictures of a patient operated for face lift showing significant wound healing achieved by polymeric membrane dressings. The second picture taken at 24 hrs post-op illustrates the dramatic reduction in inflammation, edema, and bruising experienced when polymeric membrane dressings are applied.