



Occupational Lip Asymmetry Managed by Hyaluronic Acid Fillers

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Abstract

We present a 52-year-old lady who had lip atrophy with tissue loss in her lower lip (middle segment) not due to age, but due to her occupation. She is a beautician by occupation and doing lip threading for her clients and for herself since last 20 years. On examination we found middle segment of lower lip atrophied, damaged and inverted due to threading. Rest of the lip segment (upper and lower lips) was atrophied due to age. So, we treated not only the middle segment with tissue loss but also the atrophied segments in both upper and lower lip so as to get an overall fuller lip with eversion especially of lower lip segment. We hereby report a case of lip atrophy with tissue loss due to occupational injury managed successfully with dermal fillers. This is probably the first documented case for this indication.

Keywords: Lip atrophy; Occupational injury; Hyaluronic acid fillers

Introduction

Hyaluronic Acid fillers are one of the commonest procedures done for lip augmentation and definition. But the lips mostly done are either for young girls wanting lip enhancement for aesthetic purposes and by middle or old age people who have very small lips or atrophied lips due to age or post surgical.

Case Presentation

A 52-year-old female patient was examined and treated at author's private clinic. The patient came with complaints of damaged and inverted lower lips due to constant threading since last 20 years. On examination we found middle segment of the lower lip damaged with tissue loss, inverted and atrophied as seen in Figure 1. The middle segment changes were so prominent that the vermilion border only created the lip line, that also disproportionate with the remaining lip. Rest of the segments of both upper and lower lips had age related atrophy. The experienced injectors assessed and explained all details to the patient. We wanted to form not only a proper dry part of the lips, but also to create overall lip symmetry with fullness and eversion and also to make the tissue loss less prominent. A written informed consent was taken from the patient before starting the procedure. Then using hyaluronic acid fillers with hyaluronic acid concentration of 17.5 mg with lidocaine and using 30 G½ needle the deformity was not only corrected but we could transform the

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Figure 1: Shows damaged (tissue loss) and atrophied middle segment (inversion) of the lower lip.



Figure 2: Transformation of atrophied lips into fuller looking everted lips (deformity almost invisible).



Figure 3: Fuller everted lips at the end of 1 year.

atrophied lips into fuller looking everted lips as seen in Figure 2. The deformity was almost invisible as seen in Figure 2. The injections were completed for both upper and lower lips and patient did not complain of any excessive pain or discomfort after the injections. Patient left

the clinic uneventfully. A routine follow up call the next day revealed patients happiness about the procedure. We followed up the patient and at the end of 1 year as seen in Figure 3; we can appreciate a fuller everted lip with the deformity almost invisible.

Discussion

We are presenting this case report because of its uniqueness and association with occupational injury. Lip atrophy is very common which can be due to age related changes, actinic cheilitis, labial lichen planus, post surgical and many others. In the present case we not only encountered lip atrophy but also tissue loss making its management challenging. Hyaluronic acid fillers are one of the most common treatments done for lip augmentations or to correct asymmetries. There is scant literature on correction of lip asymmetries with soft-tissue fillers [1]. In literature, there have been reports of asymmetric smiles correction with the use of botulinum toxin [2] and lower lip asymmetry by botulinum toxin and/or surgery [3].

But this is probably the first case report detailing the use of hyaluronic acid fillers to correct lip atrophy with tissue loss due to occupational injury.

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