

Early postoperative efficacy of fibrin glue in face lifts: a prospective randomized trial.

Authors: Marchac D, Greensmith AL

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Abstract:

Fibrin glue is increasingly finding use in plastic surgery at the clinical and basic science level. The authors conducted a prospective, nonblinded, randomized, controlled trial in 30 patients undergoing face lifts to examine the efficacy of fibrin glue in reducing postoperative wound drainage, hematomas, and, in particular, the degree of ecchymosis and edema at 24 hours and at 8 days. Patients were their own controls and were randomized to have the glue on one side of their face only to compare the glued and unglued sides. The patients ranged in age from 42 to 72 years (mean age, 60 years). There was one major hematoma requiring surgical evacuation. In the remaining 29 patients, the mean drainage on the glued side was 26 ml, compared with 33.5 ml on the control, unglued side. This difference was statistically significant numerically ($p = 0.037$) but was not thought to be surgically significant. Comparing scores among grades of hematomas, ecchymosis, and edema, there were minimal differences between the glued and unglued sides. This study suggests that fibrin glue may not be as beneficial as previously thought in reducing ecchymosis and edema in the early postoperative period after face lifts, and its future role is discussed.