

Nasal Augmentation Using Gore-Tex

A 10-Year Experience

THE FOLLOW-UP article by Godin and colleagues¹ has answered several of the questions posed in my editorial footnote of their original study² conducted in October 1995. A skeptical view of their preliminary study of using this alloplastic implant material seemed prudent and appropriate at the time. However, their cur-

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rent study¹ indicates that the number of cases has more than doubled that of the original review, with an increasing number representing revisional surgery. The complication rate for augmentation in primary cases is a very acceptable 1.2% and an equally acceptable 3.2% in revisional sur-

gery. Had the authors' contraindication for use of this material in patients with septal perforations been heeded, then the complication rates for secondary cases would be amazingly low.

In primary surgery, Gore-Tex (W. L. Gore & Assoc Inc, Flagstaff, Ariz) is with few exceptions the most propitious alloplastic material now available. It has been my first choice of material for augmentation and/or camouflaging irregularities for the past 4 years. The authors' caution regarding its use in secondary surgery is prudent advice.

In summary, this study indicates that Gore-Tex is a safe and effective material for use in nasal surgery. It must be carefully used in all cases but especially in revisional nasal surgery. As with any surgery, dili-

gence and careful documentation of all cases, but especially untoward events, are essential practices of all thoughtful surgeons.

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2. Godin MS, Waldman SR, Johnson CM Jr. The use of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (Gore-Tex) in rhinoplasty: a 6-year experience. *Arch Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. 1995;121:1131-1136.