Abdominoplasty Revision with Autologous Tissue Expansion

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We read with much interest the article by Kadri et al. [1]. We would like to share our experience with revision abdominoplasty in a patient who had a natural form of tissue expansion: pregnancy.

After her first abdominoplasty, our patient got a tattoo to camouflage the scar on her lower abdomen. Ten years later she became pregnant and had an uneventful delivery. Her main concern was the tattoo on the lower abdomen that she had wanted removed for quite some time. We waited almost a year postpartum before performing the revision abdominoplasty. We allowed adequate time for maternal bonding, and with respect to surgery, we were confident that sufficient healing had occurred and that the tissues had returned to their prepregnancy state. Although pregnancy has the natural effect of expanding both the muscular and the skin/subcutaneous tissue components of the abdominal wall, there is higher contractility of the muscular component, thereby leaving the skin and subcutaneous tissue in a relatively expanded state postpartum.

The patient's lower abdominal tattoo was excised completely and we were able to place the new scar in a

lower abdominal position so as to be covered adequately by her clothes. Interestingly, intraoperatively we found a minimal separation of the recti which was nevertheless reapposed again. It would seem that the plication of recti, which was done in the first abdominoplasty with Vicryl® 0/0, had produced enough scarring 10 years on to withstand a complete diastasis recurrence, even with pregnancy. In cases where pregnancy can coincidentally provide us with extra skin to be used to repair scars or other deformities of the abdominal wall, use of the skin should be considered an option relatively soon after successful delivery. A postoperative review 6 months later revealed good results with a flat youthful abdomen, a flat stable scar within the bikini line, and a satisfied patient.

Conflicts of interest The authors have no financial or conflicts of interest to disclose.

Reference

1. Kadri OM, Moosa S, Mofid MM (2013) Abdominoplasty revision using tissue expansion. *Aesthetic Plast Surg*. doi:10.1007/s00266-013-0104-6

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