Use of petroleum-based oil (Vaseline) at the liposuction incision to reduce cutaneous complications

Ebaa Sabri · Antoine Paraskevas

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Sir,

The technique of liposuction was first introduced by Dr. Yves-Gerard Illouz in Europe more than two decades ago [1, 2]. During the last decade, lipoaspiration has been a common aesthetic surgical procedure [3]. As with any surgical procedure, lipoaspiration is not exempt from complications, especially when so many modifications are constantly being presented [3–7]. Many complications have been published, including major complications such as fat embolism, extended infection, skin necrosis and minor complications such as palpable or visible irregularities, seromas, cutaneous hyperpigmentation, overcorrection, cutaneous slough, and local infection [1, 3].

The cutaneous complications such as burn, slough, ulceration, local infection, skin necrosis, and hyperpigmentation occur due to the friction of the liposuction cannula with the skin. The use of petroleum-based oil (Vaseline) (huile de Vaseline – lab. Aguettant) locally at the site of incision several times during the procedure would reduce the friction between the skin and the cannula and decrease the risk of burn which increases the risk of infection and necrosis, in addition to the deposit of haemosiderin in the skin which participates in skin hyperpigmentation. Cardenas-Camarena [3] has advised to slightly enlarge the incision to decrease the occurrence of hyperpigmentation at the site of incision. We use this product systematically in all our cases of liposuction and we have found that it is an

effective method to reduce the risk of cutaneous complications, so we would like to recommend in this letter the frequent application of petroleum-based oil (Vaseline) (huile de Vaseline – lab. Aguettant) on the site of incision during lipoaspiration in order to reduce the effect of friction between the cannula and the skin, and this will decrease the cutaneous complications in liposuction procedures.

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E. Sabri (✉) · A. Paraskevas
SOS Main Est Parisien,
Paris, France
e-mail: emsabri@yahoo.com