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IMCAS: LETTER



Prevention of hyaluronic acid filler-induced blindness

Fig. 1.1 Prevention of HA filler—Dermatologic Therapy 2020 [1]

Table 1.1 ABCs in the prevention of filler-induced ocular complications

iai complications						
(An) Anatomy (Doppler ultrasound)						

- (As) Aspiration with proper technique
- (As) Aspiration with proper techniq
- (B) Big cannulas
- (C) Compression
- (D) Direction of injection
- (E) Emergency kit
- (F) Filler technique for augmentation or wrinkle correction
- (G) Gentle injection of a small amount
- (H) History of prior operations or injections



Fig. 1.2 Important vessels of the face

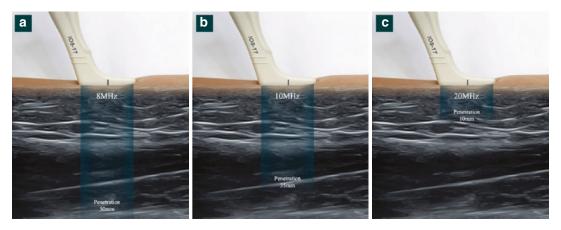


Fig. 1.3 The depth relationship within ultrasound frequency. Between 8 and 10 MHz frequency is mostly used in plastic surgery fields. (a) Within 8MHz frequency, 50mm depth can be detected. Most of the facial layer can

be detected. (b) Within 10MHz frequency, 35mm depth can be detected. (c) Within 20MHz frequency, 10mm depth can be detected. Dermal layer can be seen precisely

common location of ocular complication was found to be injections at the nose [6]. Injection rhinoplasty is the easiest and most efficient way of nonsurgical rhinoplasty but should be performed very carefully.

(3) Facial artery.

The nasolabial fold correction is one of the most performed filler injections. The facial artery runs under the mimetic muscle or over the mus-





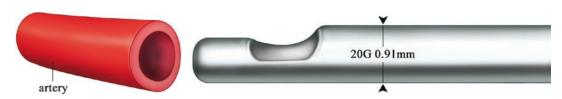


Fig. 1.15 The diameter of the important arteries (dorsal nasal artery, supratrochlear artery, and supraorbital artery) is approximately 1 mm diameter [12]. From the compara-

tive diagram between arterial diameter and cannula, a relatively large diameter cannula cannot penetrate the artery



Fig. 1.16 Supratrochlear arterial pathway compression during glabellar wrinkle line correction

patient would panic. So, we should always prepare an emergency kit and mediate as soon as possible [13]. The author always prepares an emergency kit at the clinic (Fig. 1.19).

1.8 (F) Filler Techniques

The bolus technique is an effective technique for lifting tissue at a specific point. But we should inject a relatively large amount of volume. The aspiration test should be performed. In contrast, the linear threading technique moves the tip con-

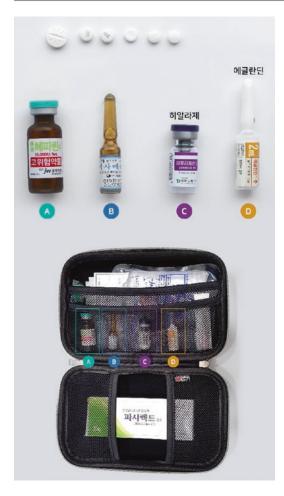


Fig. 1.19 Emergency kit (A. Heparin, B. Dexamethasone, C. Hyaluronidase, D. E glandin)

Actual ejection pressure is much higher than normal blood pressure. This means the filler can reach the ophthalmic artery with a small injection force. A gentle injection with minimal force is needed (Fig. 1.21).

1.10 (H) History of Prior Operations or Injections

One preventive method is to ask about previous operation history or injection history. A previous operation would alter the vasculature. For example, the open rhinoplasty technique always interrupts the columellar artery and the nasal tip vasculature has to change. So extreme caution is needed for a previous operation site. The previous filler injection also might alter the vasculature. The vasculature might be compressed by previous filler injection and secondary injection space is decreased. Often we can find that the vascular complication occurs when performing a "retouching process."

Filler injection is a relatively simple technique. The patient needs a minimal invasive procedure for more aesthetic improvement and doctors also want to perform a minimal procedure. But there are some tragic complications and there are also no 100% safe techniques. But when performing a relatively safe procedure and per-

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION



Comparison of hyaluronic acid filler ejection pressure with injection force for safe filler injection

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Fig. 1.20 Pressure of hyaluronic acid filler injection

(5) Vascular complications.

The most tragic complication is a vascular complication. Doctors always prepare for vascular complications such as skin necrosis or ocular complications. Even though doctors are aware of vascular anatomy, there are always variations so it might occur with any patient.

What dose of Hyaluronidase should be injected?

Dr. Lorenzi proposed the dose of skin necrosis (Fig. 2.9) [6]. But multiple factors should be considered (Table 2.4).

Among these considerations, repetitive injections are very important. The author also conducted a rabbit experiment that found that an appropriate dose of hyaluronidase is needed and repetitive injections at 30 mins to 1 hour are needed [7].

Fig. 2.9 Dose for skin necrosis. The dose should be considered by various types of hyaluronidase product





Fig. 3.1 Forehead considerations. (a) Front view and (b) Lateral view

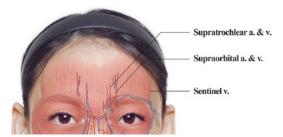


Fig. 3.2 Forehead vessels

Table 3.1 Forehead considerations

Considerations of forehead augmentation by HA filler

- 1. The height of supraorbital ridge which is located near the eyebrow should be considered.
- 2. The highest desired location point of forehead should be considered.

gently and carefully when performing injections of HA filler deeply above the eyebrow, especially from eyebrow to 2 cm above.

3.3 Doppler Ultrasound

The superficial temporal artery is easily detected by the doppler ultrasound and the supratrochlear artery and the supraorbital artery can also be detected by ultrasound (Fig. 3.3). It is recommended to detect the supratrochlear artery and

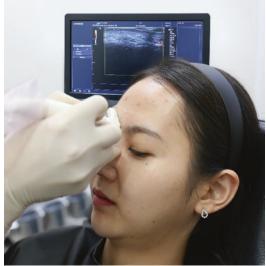


Fig. 3.3 Doppler ultrasound finding before forehead filler injection

the supraorbital artery before any HA filler injection because these arteries are directly related to the ophthalmic artery [2].

3.4 Filler Choice

The forehead is a wide area so an even injection is quite important. Also, frontalis muscle action should be considered. Not only is the augmenta-



Fig. 4.5 Design the correction of glabellar wrinkle lines



Fig. 4.6 Detect supratrochlear artery by doppler ultrasound



Fig. 4.7 Draw the detected artery

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Fig. 4.8 Inject HA filler. Use 27G ~ 30G needle and direct needle far from the eye. It is recommended to compress the medial side of the orbit



Fig. 4.9 Immediately after HA filler injection

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5.5 Injection Techniques (Figs. 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10, and 5.11)

Doppler ultrasound detection of the superficial temporal artery is performed. Then a local anesthesia is injected at the hairline. After a needle puncture of the entry point, a 21G cannula is inserted. The STF is perforated easily by cannula but the DTF is hard to perforate so the cannula tip can be located between the STF and DTF easily. Inject HA filler when the cannula tip is located correctly. Inject gently using the retrograde threading technique.

The superficial temporal artery is located at the STF so locate the cannula hole downward. The left hand can feel during HA filler injection.



Fig. 5.6 Local anesthesia at entry point



Fig. 5.7 Approach 21G cannula between STF and DTF. STF is easily perforated



Fig. 5.8 Proceed gently with cannula tip between STF and DTF



Fig. 5.9 Gentle injection by linear threading technique



Fig. 5.10 Place the patient in upright position and inject filler if there is insufficient location



Fig. 6.4 Local lidocaine anesthesia at infralobular area



Fig. 6.5 Puncture by 21G needle



Fig. 6.6 Approach cannula tip



Fig. 6.7 When the cannula tip passes the nasal bone, the doctor should feel bone scratch (periosteum) to locate the supraperiosteal layer



Fig. 6.8 Perpendicular needle injection. The needle tip should be located at the supraperiosteal layer (an aspiration test should be performed before the injection)



Fig. 6.9 When performing a nose injection, compression of the dorsal nasal artery pathway is recommended