

THE USE OF HYALURONIDASE TO REVERSE THE EFFECTS OF HYALURONIC ACID FILLER

Sir:

I recently saw a 35-year-old woman whose tear troughs and lid-cheek junctions had been injected with a hyaluronic acid filler about a week earlier. The placement seemed to be in the deep dermis. She had moderately firm palpable masses over the orbital rims that could be rolled against the bone. They were obvious by virtue of the mass effect and the shadows that they cast. The deformity both looked and felt very similar to that seen with superficial fat injection of the lower lids.

Thinking that hyaluronidase might reverse the effects of the hyaluronic acid filler, I combined 75 U of hyaluronidase (Lee Pharmacy, Inc., Fort Smith, Ariz.; 50 U/cc) and 1.5 cc of 0.5% lidocaine with epinephrine and injected that into the hyaluronic acid filler excesses of the lower lids.

The patient reported to me that 90 percent of the lumpiness was gone in the first 24 hours and that the rest took several more days to disappear. When I saw her 2 weeks after treatment, there was no obvious hyaluronic acid filler visually and only a speck or two on palpation.

The need to correct overfilling of hyaluronic acid filler should be infrequent, but in a time when injectable fillers are achieving longer durations of action, even to the point of permanence, it is comforting to know that there is a filler of reasonable longevity that can be completely reversed if desired.

This is an anecdotal report on one patient, and the effect clearly needs to be confirmed. Still, the chemistry is consistent with the clinical course, and it is likely that this treatment will be found to be valid.

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