A systematic review of the effectiveness and complications of fat grafting in the facial region
✩

Jordan Gornitsky a, Alex Viezel-Mathieu b, Nayif Alnaif b, Alain Joe Azzi b, Mirko S. Gilardino b,*

a Faculty of Medicine, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
b Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, McGill University Health Center, Montreal Children’s Hospital, 1001 Decarie Boulevard, B05.3310, Montreal, Quebec H4A 3J1, Canada

Article history:
Received 23 November 2018
Accepted 15 December 2018
Available online 22 December 2018

Keywords:
Autologous fat graft
Facial region
Effectiveness
Complications

Introduction: The objective of this study was to evaluate the safety and efficacy of fat grafting to the facial region for the reconstruction and aesthetic enhancement of facial contour.

Methods: A systematic literature review of the National Library of Medicine (PubMed), MEDLINE and Cochrane databases was performed. Studies involving the outcomes of autologous fat grafting to correct or enhance contour defects of the face were included. Extracted data included patient demographics, harvest and injection sites, graft harvesting and injection technique, mean injected volume, retained volume percentage and complications.

Results: Forty-three articles met the inclusion criteria, resulting in 4577 patients with various facial contour defects treated with autologous fat grafting. Injection sites were categorized by anatomic facial regions as upper (32.5%), middle (53%) and lower face (14.5%). The mean volume of injected fat was 16.9 ml. The mean weighted volume retention of non-enriched grafts was 41.63% at the time of follow up (mean 13.9 months). A total of 104 (2.27%) complications were reported including asymmetry (74), skin irregularities (14), prolonged edema (4), graft hypertrophy (4), fat necrosis (3), infection (2), erythema (1), telangiectasia (1), and activation of acne (1).

✩ Presented at Plastic Surgery the Meeting (ASPS) 2017 in Orlando, Florida, October 6 through 10, 2017.
* Corresponding author.
E-mail address: mirko.gilardino@muhc.mcgill.ca (M.S. Gilardino).

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpra.2018.12.004
2352-5878/© 2018 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd on behalf of British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license.
(http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)
Conclusion: The present study represents the first systematic review of fat grafting in the facial region, a widely-performed procedure within plastic surgery practice. Importantly, it presents pooled important data such as retained grafting volume and complication rates in this anatomical region, providing clinicians with more accurate information with which to guide their decision-making and patient education.

© 2018 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd on behalf of British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license. (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)

Introduction

Neuber was first to describe the transfer of fat as a means of treating retractile scarring in 1893. Fat grafting, however, has only gained widespread popularity amongst plastic surgeons over the past several decades. Its use as a treatment for both cosmetic and reconstructive contour defects has evolved due to the development of modern liposuction in the 1980’s by Illouz2,3 and the continued refinement of harvesting, preparation and grafting techniques such as those pioneered by Coleman.4

Fat serves as ideal soft tissue filler in that it is autologous, biocompatible, easily accessible in most patients, relatively permanent and can integrate into the surrounding tissue at the injection site.4–6 The safety and effectiveness of fat grafting has been extensively studied for various indications, particularly in breast surgery for both reconstructive and cosmetic purposes.7–9 Its use in the facial region has also increased, although less is published regarding its safety and effectiveness for facial reconstruction or aesthetic improvement.8,10,11

To that end, the authors have performed a systematic review of the literature, with the objective of providing more data with which to evaluate the effectiveness and associated complications of autologous fat grafting for the treatment of contour deformities in facial region.

Patients and methods

A search of the National Library of Medicine (PubMed), MEDLINE, and Cochrane databases was conducted using different versions of the following keywords: [“fat graft” or “autologous graft” (MESH), or “adipose”) and (“graft survival” (MESH), or “complications”, or “treatment outcomes” (MESH)]. The search was confined to both English and French language articles and limited to humans. Articles from all years up until December 2015 were considered, with no restriction placed on patient age.

The resultant 789 abstracts were independently assessed by two separate reviewers according to strict inclusion and exclusion criteria. Studies were included if data regarding facial fat grafting complication rates and/or efficacy was provided. Patients receiving fat grafting as an adjunct to another therapy or dermal fat grafting were excluded in order to decrease confounding factors and to more accurately assess graft retention and complications attributed solely to fat grafting. Case reports were also excluded to limit publication bias. No limitation was placed on minimum follow up time. Forty-three full articles were retained based on our inclusion criteria of facial contour defects and the use of fat grafting as the sole treatment modality.

The selected articles were analyzed regarding patient demographics, indication for treatment, harvest site, processing technique, graft enrichment, injection site, volume injected, percentage of graft retained, follow up time and complications resulting from the procedure.

Given the large variability in the method by which injection sites were documented, cases were categorized according to anatomic facial regions treated: upper, middle, and lower. The upper third was defined as the region extending from the hairline to glabella, the middle third from glabella to subnasale and the lower third from subnasale to menton.
Complications included in the analysis were erythema, prolonged edema (lasting greater than 3 weeks), telangiectasia, asymmetry, skin irregularities, graft hypertrophy, erythema, infection and fat necrosis.

The reported volume of adipose tissue retained at follow up in various studies was measured using 2-dimensional photography, 3-dimensional imaging or commuted tomography (CT) scans.

This systematic review was conducted in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA)\textsuperscript{12} (Figure 1, Table 1).\textsuperscript{6,13–54}

Results

Our search returned 789 matches, 43 of which met our inclusion criteria, representing a total of 4577 individual patients who underwent autologous fat transfer.\textsuperscript{6,13–54}

Patient demographics/characteristics

Of the 4577 included patients who underwent autologous fat transfer, 55% (n = 2516) were female and 12.1% were male (n=553), with the remaining 32.9% (n = 1508) not specified. The mean age at the time of the procedure was 36.2 years (range: 7.4–80 years) (Table 2).

The indications for treatment were clearly documented in 2040 cases. In decreasing order of prevalence, they were: cosmetic 75.39% (n = 1538), lipodystrophy 8.33% (n = 170), post-operative defects 4.71% (n = 96), hemifacial atrophy 4.61% (n = 94), other congenital malformations 2.11% (n = 43), trauma 1.61% (n = 33), burns 1.47% (n = 30), scarring 1.13% (n = 23) and other 0.69% (n = 14).
### Table 1
Overview of included studies characteristics and level of evidence.

| Study                | Year | Study design         | Number of patients | Evidence level |
|----------------------|------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Azzam et al.         | 2013 | Cohort               | 20                 | 3              |
| Baptista et al.      | 2013 | Case series          | 20                 | 4              |
| Castor et al.        | 1999 | Cohort               | 6                  | 4              |
| Caye et al.          | 2003 | Case series          | 29                 | 4              |
| Cerrelli et al.      | 2014 | Case series          | 45                 | 4              |
| Chang et al.         | 2013 | Cohort               | 20                 | 3              |
| Coleman et al.       | 2010 | Case series          | 3                  | 4              |
| Dolfi et al.         | 2009 | Case series          | 6                  | 4              |
| Duska and Kristen    | 2013 | Case series          | 5                  | 4              |
| Erol and Agaoglu     | 2013 | Case series          | 2439               | 4              |
| Erse et al.          | 1998 | Case series          | 4                  | 4              |
| Fontedevila et al.   | 2014 | Randomized controlled trial | 49               | 2              |
| Fontedevila et al.   | 2008 | Case series          | 26                 | 4              |
| Gentile et al.       | 2014 | Cohort               | 20                 | 3              |
| Gerth et al.         | 2014 | Cohort               | 26                 | 3              |
| Guaraldi et al.      | 2005 | Cohort               | 24                 | 3              |
| Guibert et al.       | 2013 | Case series          | 11                 | 4              |
| Guirr et al.         | 2011 | Case series          | 11                 | 4              |
| Guyuron and Majzoub  | 2007 | Case series          | 16                 | 4              |
| Jianhui et al.       | 2014 | Cohort               | 36                 | 3              |
| Kanchwala et al.     | 2005 | Cohort               | 976                | 3              |
| Khater et al.        | 2009 | Cohort               | 51                 | 3              |
| Kim et al.           | 2010 | Case series          | 6                  | 4              |
| Kuran and Tumerdem   | 2005 | Case series          | 71                 | 4              |
| Laurent et al.       | 2006 | Case series          | 9                  | 4              |
| Li et al.            | 2013 | Case control         | 38                 | 4              |
| Lim et al.           | 2012 | Case series          | 27                 | 4              |
| Mojallal et al.      | 2015 | Case series          | 100                | 4              |
| Monreal              | 2011 | Case series          | 33                 | 4              |
| Ozkaya et al.        | 2013 | Case series          | 21                 | 4              |
| Rauo et al.          | 2011 | Cohort               | 23                 | 4              |
| Rusciani et al.      | 2012 | Case series          | 215                | 4              |
| Sasaki               | 2011 | Case series          | 23                 | 4              |
| Schendel             | 2015 | Cohort               | 10                 | 3              |
| Steredimas et al.    | 2011 | Cohort               | 20                 | 3              |
| Tsai and Liao        | 2010 | Case series          | 209                | 4              |
| Wang et al.          | 2015 | Case series          | 105                | 4              |
| Xie et al.           | 2007 | Case series          | 31                 | 4              |
| Xie et al.           | 2010 | Case series          | 83                 | 4              |
| Yin et al.           | 2013 | Case series          | 12                 | 4              |
| Yoshimura et al.     | 2008 | Cohort               | 6                  | 4              |
| Zeltzer et al.       | 2012 | Case series          | 250                | 4              |
| Zhu et al.           | 2016 | Case series          | 22                 | 4              |

### Injection characteristics

A total of 1875 procedures with clearly documented anatomic recipient sites were identified. The fat injection sites were divided according to anatomic facial regions treated, corresponding to upper (n = 393), middle (n = 1234) and lower third (n = 248). The mean volume injected across all anatomical regions was 16.9cc (range 1–133cc). The mean volume by facial region was upper 11.8cc, middle 16.2cc and lower third 7.8cc.

### Follow-up

The mean follow up time was 13.95 months and median time was 12 months. The reported follow up periods ranged from 3 months to 50 months.
Table 2
Study characteristics.

| Characteristics          | Overall n = 4577 |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Gender (%)               |                  |
| Female                   | 2516 (55)        |
| Male                     | 553 (12.1)       |
| Unspecified              | 1508 (32.9)      |
| Age (years)              |                  |
| Mean                     | 36.2             |
| Range                    | 7.4–80           |
| Indication (%)           |                  |
| Cosmetic                 | 1538 (75.39)     |
| Lipodystrophy            | 170 (3.73)       |
| Post-op defects          | 96 (4.11)        |
| Hemifacial atrophy       | 94 (4.16)        |
| Congenital               | 43 (2.11)        |
| Trauma                   | 33 (1.61)        |
| Burns                    | 30 (1.47)        |
| Scarring                 | 23 (1.13)        |
| Other                    | 14 (0.69)        |
| Volume injection (cc)    |                  |
| Mean                     | 16.9             |
| Range                    | 1–133            |
| Injection sites (volume injected in cc) |          |
| Upper                    | 393 (11.8)       |
| Middle                   | 1234 (34.2)      |
| Lower                    | 248 (7.8)        |
| Follow-up (months)       |                  |
| Mean                     | 13.95            |
| Median                   | 12               |

Table 3
Detailed breakdown of fat harvesting techniques.

| Technique                  | Number of patients | Number of studies |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Coleman                    | 676                | 21                |
| Washing                    | 403                | 8                 |
| Non-centrifuged            | 41                 | 4                 |
| Low-pressure               | 152                | 4                 |
| Coleman + antibiotics      | 2439               | 1                 |
| Washed + centrifuged       | 10                 | 1                 |
| Closed-membrane filtration| 19                 | 1                 |
| Total                      | 3740               | 40                |

Graft enrichment

Graft enrichment was documented in 2.38% of patients (n = 109) and consisted of either adipose tissue supplemented with stromal vascular fraction (SVF) (n = 79) or platelet rich plasma (PRP) (n = 30).

Processing technique

A total of seven graft-processing techniques were documented in 38 studies. The Coleman technique was the most commonly used method across all studies. Two studies utilized more than one processing technique. Washing was performed using saline solution in all patients (Table 3).
Table 4
Reported complications of fat grafting.

| Complication       | Number of patients | Percentage of all complications (%) |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Asymmetry          | 74                 | 71.15                               |
| Skin irregularities| 14                 | 13.46                               |
| Hypertrophy        | 4                  | 3.85                                |
| Prolonged edema    | 4                  | 3.85                                |
| Fat necrosis       | 3                  | 2.88                                |
| Infection          | 2                  | 1.92                                |
| Telangiectasia     | 1                  | 0.96                                |
| Erythema           | 1                  | 0.96                                |
| Activation of acne | 1                  | 0.96                                |

Table 5
Complications of fat grafting stratified according to site of injection.

| Facial region | Complication       | Number of complications (%) | Total number of injections |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Upper         | Infection          | 1 (0.40)                    | 248                       |
| Middle        | Asymmetry          | 9 (0.73)                    | 1234                      |
|               | Erythema           | 1 (0.08)                    |                           |
|               | Hypertrophy        | 4 (0.32)                    |                           |
|               | Skin irregularities| 2 (0.16)                    |                           |
| Lower         | Edema              | 1 (0.25)                    | 393                       |

Table 6
Complications of fat grafting stratified according to procedural indication.

| Indication      | Complication       | Number of complications (%) | Total number of injections |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cosmetic        | Asymmetry          | 60 (3.90)                   | 1538                      |
|                 | Fat necrosis       | 2 (0.13)                    |                           |
|                 | Infection          | 1 (0.06)                    |                           |
| Lipodystrophy   | Asymmetry          | 11 (6.47)                   | 170                       |
|                 | Hypertrophy        | 4 (2.35)                    |                           |
|                 | Skin irregularities| 3 (1.76)                    |                           |
| Post-operative defect | Infection          | 1 (1.04)                    | 96                        |
| Scar            | Telangiectasia     | 1 (1.04)                    |                           |
|                 | Activation of acne | 1 (4.35)                    | 23                        |
|                 | Prolonged edema    | 1 (4.35)                    |                           |
|                 | Erythema           | 1 (4.35)                    |                           |

Harvest site

No preferred donor site was identified throughout the included studies. Adipose tissue was harvested from the abdomen, flanks, thighs, dorsal cervical hump, and buttocks, and was determined primarily based on surgeon and patient preference.

Complications

An overall complication rate of 2.27% (n = 104) was noted amongst all studies. The most commonly documented complications were asymmetry, skin irregularities, hypertrophy, prolonged edema (lasting greater than 3 weeks), fat necrosis, infection, telangiectasia, erythema and activation of acne (Tables 4–6).
Table 7
Detailed breakdown of the mean volume fat graft retention.

| Characteristics (number of cases) | Retention percentage (%) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Indication                        |                           |
| Cosmetic (56)                     | 45.76                     |
| Reconstructive (72)               | 38.26                     |
| Injection site                    |                           |
| Upper (61)                        | 35.80                     |
| Middle (31)                       | 41.50                     |
| Lower (12)                        | 51.88                     |
| Processing technique              |                           |
| Coleman (88)                      | 41.00                     |
| Low-pressure (22)                 | 44.53                     |
| Closed-membrane filtration (19)   | 41.20                     |
| Non-enriched (129)                | 41.63                     |
| Enriched                          |                           |
| SVF (56)                          | 65.68                     |
| PRP (10)                          | 69.00                     |
| Cosmetic SVF (36)                 | 65.69                     |
| Reconstructive SVF (20)           | 65.65                     |
| Reconstructive PRP (10)           | 69.00                     |
| Coleman SVF (46)                  | 65.17                     |
| Coleman PRP (10)                  | 69.00                     |
| Washed + centrifuged SVF (10)     | 68.00                     |

SVF, stromal vascular fraction; PRP, platelet-rich plasma.

Volume retention at follow-up

The mean weighted volume of fat graft retention was stratified according to procedural indication, anatomical region of injection and processing technique. In addition, the mean retention was also calculated for grafts enriched with SVF and PRP.

Twelve studies documented the method used for quantifying the percentage of adipose tissue retained at follow-up. Two studies used two-dimensional photographs, six studies used a form of three-dimensional imaging, and four studies used computed tomography scanning (Table 7).

Discussion

Autologous fat grafting has many beneficial qualities that make it advantageous for correcting contour deformities or augmenting soft-tissue for reconstructive or cosmetic indications. Fat grafts are autologous, biocompatible, permanent and viable when integrated into the injection site. They are easily accessible in most patients, and represent a relatively simple and low-cost surgical procedure. Many studies have demonstrated that in addition to the volume provided, adipose tissue contains both adipose-derived stem cells (ASC) as well as multipotent stem cells, which can differentiate into various tissue types.\(^\text{25–60}\) Not only can ASCs differentiate into adipocytes and contribute to the regeneration of adipose tissue, but they have also been shown to promote angiogenesis through the release of growth factors in response to hypoxic microenvironements.\(^\text{25–60}\) The fact that these growth factors influence the surrounding host tissue has been advantageously used to improve healing in conditions such as in radiation dermatitis or chronic ulcerations.\(^\text{60–63}\)

The results of the present study serve to expand the existing body of literature and provide more complete evidence, pooled from the existing data, describing the effectiveness and safety of autologous fat grafting for the treatment of facial contour defects. This study illustrates the versatility of fat grafting, while also highlighting important details such as complication rates and rates of graft retention relative to anatomic regions of the face and processing techniques.

The complication rate (2.27%) identified in this review was minimal, with the majority of complications (84.61%) being attributed to either asymmetry or skin irregularities (excessive or inadequate grafting or graft survival). Fat necrosis \((n=3)\) and infection \((n=2)\) represented 2.88% and 1.92% of all
complications, respectively. These results differ from those seen in fat grafting used for both breast and gluteal augmentation. In the systematic review by Voglimacci et al., the authors reported a complication rate of 12.6% in cosmetic breast fat grafting. Of the 256 documented complications, there were 60 cases of fat necrosis (23.44% of all complications), and 18 cases of infection (7.03% of all complications). Conde-Green et al. reported an overall complication rate of 7% in gluteal fat augmentation, of which there were 24 cases of infection (8.33% of all complications), and 23 cases of fat necrosis (7.99% of all complications).

Although not documented in this review, there have been anecdotal and published reports of significant patient morbidity and mortality as a result of fat emboli. Cases of emboli following autologous fat grafting to the glabella and nose have been attributed to retrograde arterial injection, facilitated by the abundant vascular supply in these regions, notably the frontal and dorsal nasal arteries that are supplied by the ophthalmic artery. Conversely, emboli in the gluteal region are often due to inadvertent injection into large caliber veins. Certain studies have therefore suggested using blunt canulas to minimize this risk during injection in addition to aspiration prior to injection. Unfortunately, there was insufficient data in the analyzed papers to validate this claim. In the present review, there were no reports of mortality or significant embolic complications associated with facial fat grafting procedures.

The mean volume of fat retained of non-enriched grafts was found to be 41.63% \((n = 129)\). The mean volume retained of fat enriched with SVF was 65.68% \((n = 56)\), while grafts enriched with PRP was 69% \((n = 10)\). Despite the limited sample size, discrepancy in the methods of fat volume retention assessment and follow-up intervals, these results parallel the survival of fat grafts to anatomical regions other than the facial region. In a recent systematic review by Zhou et al. evaluating graft survival based on technique, the authors reported a statistically significantly higher facial fat graft survival rate of 71% in the cell-assisted lipotransfer group as compared to 52% in the control group (standard fat grafting). It has been hypothesized that cell-assisted-lipotransfer would increase fat survival by enhancing angiogenesis and adipogenesis. However, current lipotransfer techniques are not reliably capable of reversing the central ischemia of larger volume grafts.

The mean weighted volume of retained fat was stratified according to procedural indication, injection site and processing technique. The difference of retained volume in these subgroups was minimal. When comparing Coleman, low-pressure and closed-membrane filtration, the retained volumes were 41.00%, 44.53%, and 41.20%, respectively. These results are in keeping with a systematic review conducted by Gupta et al., in which the authors were unable to identify one processing technique that was superior to the others. It was postulated, however, that a combination of gentle washing and centrifugation should be employed to preserve adipocyte viability while removing the bulk of the contaminants. The studies included in this review that utilized washing as their graft processing technique did not publish graft survival rates.

Graft retention for facial cosmetic and reconstructive indications was 45.76% and 38.26%, respectively. These results fall within the wide range of values reported for fat grafting to the breast (range 34%–82%). Fat retention appears to be comparable for both cosmetic and reconstructive groups of patients, however, it was difficult to accurately assess given the vast spectrum of reconstructive indications, and the variability by which the retained volume was calculated. To that end, there is currently not enough data in the published literature to draw conclusions as to the superior indication (reconstruction vs. aesthetic) or processing technique for fat grafting. Furthermore, a surrogate marker used to determine whether the outcome of the procedure was successful was patient and surgeon satisfaction. Objective measurement of satisfactory outcomes using questionnaires was only reported in a subset of studies, while the remainder relied on surgeon interpretation.

Despite the comprehensive nature of this study, there are several inherent limitations of this review. The majority of the articles included were case series, with low levels of evidence, which introduces a risk of publication bias. The way in which information was documented and presented in the various included studies was heterogeneous. While some studies provided detailed demographics for each individual patient, others simply provided overall averages of their patient population, which prevented the use of a meta-analysis technique and statistical analysis to compare groups with the compiled data (i.e. complication rates by facial region or processing technique). Given that the
majority of complications were minor and likely more subjective depending on the surgeon, it is also possible that the true complication rates were underestimated. Heterogeneity in fat injection technique (i.e., syringe size, cannula size, rate of injection, volume of injection etc.) could significantly impact volume retention, a confounding factor that could not be accounted for in this review. Lastly, the methods used to assess graft survival varied in terms of length of follow-up (range 3–50.76 months) and method of volumetric analysis. Shorter follow-up may favor greater retained (reported) volume, as graft retention has been shown to stabilize between 5 and 12 months post-operatively. Additionally, two of the twelve studies (16.7%) only utilized two-dimensional photography to assess graft retention, which allows for greater subjectivity when assessing the results.

The present study is the first systematic review of fat grafting in the facial region. Although limited in its ability to statistically analyze the published data, it does pool and summarize existing literature to provide a more comprehensive review of our current state of knowledge for this commonly performed procedure. Important information such as average retained grafting volumes and complication rates are presented to clinicians with more accurate information with which to guide their decision-making and patient education for facial fat grafting procedures.

Conflict of interest

None.

Financial disclosure

None of the authors has a financial interest in any of the products, devices, or drugs mentioned in this manuscript.

Funding

No funding was required.

Contribution of authors

Dr. Jordan Gornitsky was involved in the review of the literature and data collection. He was also involved in manuscript write-up and the submission and revision of the manuscript.

Dr. Alex Viezel-Mathieu provided the original idea and was involved in the review of the literature and data collection. He was also involved in writing and editing the manuscript.

Dr. Nayif Alnaif supported the original idea and was involved in the write-up and revision of the manuscript.

Dr. Alain Joe Azzi was involved in the write-up and revision of the manuscript.

Dr. Mirko Gilardino is the supervisor/senior investigator of the project, provided technical/clinical guidance and supervised and was responsible for multiple revisions of the manuscript.

References

1. Neuber G. Fat transplantation. Verh Dtsch Ges Chir. 1893;22:66.
2. Illouz YG. Present results of fat injection. Aesthetic Plast Surg. 1988;12:175–181.
3. Illouz YG. The fat cell “graft”: a new technique to fill depressions. Plast Reconstr Surg. 1986;78:122–123.
4. Coleman SR. Long-term survival of fat transplants: controlled demonstrations. Aesthetic Plast Surg. 1995;19:421–425.
5. Coleman SR. Facial recontouring with lipotransfer. Clin Plast Surg. 1997;24:347–367.
6. Coleman SR. Structural fat grafts: the ideal filler? Clin Plast Surg. 2001;28:111–119.
7. Voglimarci M, Garrido I, Mojallal A, et al. Autologous fat grafting for cosmetic breast augmentation: a systematic review. Aesthet Surg J. 2015;35(4):378–393.
8. Yu NZ, Huang JZ, Zhang H, et al. A systemic review of autologous fat grafting survival rate and related severe complications. Chinese Med J. 2015;128(9):1245–1251.
9. Spear SL, Coles CN, Leung BK, Gitlin M, Parekh M, Macarios D. The safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of autologous fat grafting in breast surgery. Plast Reconstr Surg Global Open. 2016;4(8):e827.
10. Zhou Y, Wang J, Li H, et al. Efficacy and safety of cell-assisted lipotransfer: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Plast Reconstr Surg. 2016;137(1):44e–57e.
11. Gupta R, Brace M, Taylor SM, Bezulhy M, Hong P. In search of the optimal processing technique for fat grafting. J Craniofac Surg. 2015;26(1):94–99.

12. Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG. PRISMA Group. Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses: the PRISMA statement. BMJ. 2009;339:b2535.

13. Yoshimura K, Sato K, Aoi N, et al. Cell-assisted lipotransfer for facial lipolysis: efficacy of clinical use of adipose-derived stem cells. Dermatol Surg. 2008;34:1178–1185.

14. Azzam OA, Atta AT, Sobhi RM, Mostafa PI. Fractional CO(2) laser treatment vs autologous fat transfer in the treatment of acne scars: a comparative study. JDD. 2013;12(1):e7–e13.

15. Baptista C, Nguyen PS, Desouches C, Magalon G, Bardot J, Casanova D. Correction of sequelae of rhinoplasty by lipofilling. JPRAS. 2013;66(6):805–811.

16. Castor SA, To WC, Papay FA. Lip augmentation with AlloDerm acellular allogenic dermal graft and fat autograft: a comparison with autologous fat injection alone. Aesthet Plast Surg. 1999;23(3):218–223.

17. Caye N, Le Fourn B, Pannier M. [Surgical treatment of facial lipolysis]. Ann Chir Plast Esthet. 2003;48(1):2–12.

18. Cervelli D, Gasparini G, Grussu F, et al. Autologous fat transplantation for the temporalis muscle flap donor site: our experience with 45 cases. Head Neck. 2014;36(9):1296–1304.

19. Chang Q, Li J, Dong Z, Liu L, Lu F. Quantitative volumetric analysis of progressive hemifacial atrophy corrected using stromal vascular fraction-supplemented autologous fat grafts. Dermatol Surg. 2013;39(10):1465–1473.

20. Dollfus C, Blanche S, Trocme N, Funck-Brentano I, Bonnet F, Levan P. Correction of facial lipolysis using autologous fat transplants in HIV-infected adolescents. HIV Med. 2009;10(5):263–268.

21. Duskova M, Kristen M. Augmentation by autologous adipose tissue in cleft lip and nose. Final esthetic touches in clefts: part I. J Craniofac Surg. 2004;15(3):478–481 discussion 82.

22. Erol O0, Agaooglu G. Facial rejuvenation with staged injections of cryopreserved fat and tissue cocktail: clinical outcomes in the past 10 years. Aesthet Surg J. 2013;33(5):639–653.

23. Ersek RA, Chang P, Salisbury MA. Lipo layering of autologous fat: an improved technique with promising results. Plast Reconstr Surg. 1998;101(3):820–826.

24. Fontdevila J, Guisantes E, Martinez E, Prades E, Berenguer J. Double-blind clinical trial to compare autologous fat grafts with PDGF: no effect of PDGF. Plast Reconstr Surg. 2014;134(2):219e–230e.

25. Fontdevila J, Serra-Renom JM, Raigosa M, et al. Assessing the long-term viability of facial fat grafts: an objective measure using computed tomography. Aesthet Surg J. 2008;28(4):380–386.

26. Gentile P, De Angelis B, Pasin M, et al. Adipose-derived stromal vascular fraction cells and platelet-rich plasma: basic and clinical evaluation for cell-based therapies in patients with scars on the face. J Craniofac Surg. 2014;25(1):267–272.

27. Gerth DJ, King B, Rabach L, Glasgola RA, Glasgol MJ. Long-term volumetric retention of autologous fat grafting processed with closed-membrane filtration. Aesthet Surg. 2014;34(7):985–994.

28. Guaraldi G, Orlando G, De Fazio D, et al. Comparison of three different interventions for the correction of HIV-associated facial lipolysis: a prospective study. Antiv. Therapy. 2005;10(6):753–759.

29. Guibert D, Franchi G, Ansari E, et al. Fat graft transfer in children’s facial malformations: a prospective three-dimensional evaluation. JPRAS. 2013;66(6):799–804.

30. Guijarro-Martinez R, Miragall Alba L, Marques Mateo M, Puche Torres M, Pascual Gil JV. Autologous fat transfer to the cranio-maxillofacial region: experience and controversies. J Craniofac Surg. 2011;32(3):359–363.

31. Guyuron B, Majzoub RK. Facial augmentation with core fat graft: a preliminary report. Plast Reconstr Surg. 2007;120(1):295–302.

32. Jianhui Z, Chenggang Y, Binglin L, et al. Autologous fat graft and bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells assisted fat graft for treatment of Parry–Romberg syndrome. Ann Plast Surg. 2014;72:599–5103.

33. Koylu A, Karabulut SK, Holloway L, Bucky LP. Reliable soft tissue augmentation: a clinical comparison of injectable soft tissue fillers for facial-volume augmentation. Ann Plast Surg. 2005;55(1):30–35 discussion 5.

34. Khatr A, Atanassova P, Anastassov Y, Pellerin P, Martinot-Duquennoy V. Clinical and experimental study of autologous fat grafting after processing by centrifugation and serum lavage. Aesthet Plast Surg. 2009;33(1):37–43.

35. Kim SS, Kawamoto HK, Kohan E, Bradley JP. Reconstruction of the irradiated orbit with autogenous fat grafting for improved ocular implant. Plast Reconstr Surg. 2010;126(1):213–220.

36. Kurian I, Tumerdem B. A new simple method used to prepare fat for injection. Aesthet Plast Surg. 2005;29(1):18–22 discussion 3.

37. Laurent F, Capon-Degardin N, Martinot-Duquennoy V, Dhelemmes P, Pellerin P. Role of lipo-filling in the treatment of sequelae in craniosynostosis surgery. Ann Chir Plast Esthet. 2006;51(6):512–516.

38. Li J, Gao J, Cha P, et al. Supplementing fat grafts with adipose stromal cells for cosmetic facial contouring. Dermatol Surg. 2013;39:449–456.

39. Lim AA, Fan K, Allam KA, et al. Autologous fat transplantation in the craniofacial patient: the UCLA experience. J Craniofac Surg. 2012;23(4):1061–1066.

40. Mojallal A, Shipkov C, Braye F, Breton P, Foyatier JL. Influence of the recipient site on the outcomes of fat grafting in facial reconstructive surgery. Plast Reconstr Surg. 2009;124(2):471–483.

41. Monreal J. Fat grafting to the nose: personal experience with 36 patients. Aesthet Plast Surg. 2011;35(5):916–922.

42. Ozkaya O, Egemen O, Barutca SA, Akan M. Long-term clinical outcomes of fat grafting by low-pressure aspiration and slow centrifugation (Lopsacpe technique) for different indications. J Plast Surg Hand Surg. 2013;47(5):394–398.

43. Rauo R, Curinga G, Santillo V, Corvo G, Tartaro G. Comparison between lipofilling and a nonabsorbable filler for facial wasting rehabilitation in HIV-positive patients. J Craniofac Surg. 2011;22(5):1684–1688.

44. Ruscian Scozra A, Ruscian Scozra L, Troccola A, Micci DM, Rauo R, Curinga G. Autologous fat transfer for face rejuvenation with tumescent technique fat harvesting and saline washing: a report of 215 cases. Dermatol. 2012;224(3):244–250.

45. Sasaki GH. Water-assisted liposuction for body contouring and lipoharvesting: safety and efficacy in 41 consecutive patients. Aesthet Surg J. 2011;31(1):76–88.

46. Schendel SA. Enriched autologous fat grafts in aesthetic surgery: 3D volumetric results. Aesthet Surg J. 2015;35(8):913–919.
47. Sterodimas A, de Farja J, Nicaretta B, Boriani F. Autologous fat transplantation versus adipose-derived stem cell-enriched lipografts: a study. Aesthet Surg J. 2011;31(6):682–693.

48. Tsai FC, Liao CK. Clinical outcomes of patients with prominent nasolabial folds corrected by the technique: Dermo-fascial detachment and fat grafting. JPRAS. 2011;64(3):307–312.

49. Wang Q, Guo X, Wang J. Autogenous Fat grafting for chin augmentation: a preliminarily clinical study of cosmetic outcome. J Craniofac Surg. 2015;26(7):e525–e527.

50. Xie Y, Li Q, Zheng D. Treatment of autologous fat injection for hemifacial atrophy. Chinese J Repar Reconstr Surg. 2007;21(12):1308–1311.

51. Yin J, Li H, Yin N, et al. Autologous fat grafting in lip reconstruction following hemiangioma treatment. J Craniofac Surg. 2013;24(2):346–349.

52. Zeltzer AA, Tonnard PL, Verpaele AM. Sharp-needle intradermal fat grafting (SNIF). Aesthet Surg J. 2012;32(5):554–561.

53. Xie Y, Zheng DN, Li QF, et al. An integrated fat grafting technique for cosmetic facial contouring. JPRAS. 2010;63(2):270–276.

54. Zhu M, Xie Y, Zhu Y, Chai G, Li Q. A novel noninvasive three-dimensional volumetric analysis for fat-graft survival in facial contouring using the 3L and 3M technique. JPRAS. 2016;69(2):248–254.

55. Yoshimura K, Sato K, Aoi N, et al. Cell-assisted lipotransfer for facial lipoatrophy: efficacy of clinical use of adipose-derived stem cells. Dermatol Surg. 2012;38(3 Suppl):121S–128S.

56. Matsumoto D, Sato K, Gonda K, et al. Cell-assisted lipotransfer: supportive use of human adipose-derived cells for soft tissue augmentation with lipoinjection. Tissue Eng. 2006;12:3375–3382.

57. Miranville A, Heeschen C, Sengenes C, Curat CA, Busse R, Bouloumie A. Improvement of postnatal neovascularization by human adipose tissue-derived stem cells. Circulation. 2004;110:349–355.

58. Moseley TA, Zhu M, Hedrick MH. Adipose-derived stem and progenitor cells as fillers in plastic and reconstructive surgery. Plast Reconstr Surg. 2008;118(3 Suppl):1215–1285.

59. Planat-Beanard V, Silvestre JS, Cousin B, et al. Plasticity of human adipose lineage cells toward endothelial cells: physiological and therapeutic perspectives. Circulation. 2004;109:656–663.

60. Rehman J, Traktuev D, Li J, et al. Secretion of angiogenic and antiapoptotic factors by human adipose stromal cells. Circulation. 2004;109:1292–1298.

61. Rigotti G, Marchi A, Galie M, et al. Clinical treatment of radiotherapy tissue damages by lipoaspirates transplant: a healing process mediated by adipose derived stem cells (asc). Plast Reconstr Surg. 2007;119(5):1409–1422.

62. Garcia-Olmo D, Garcia-Arranz M, Garcia LG, et al. Autologous stem cell transplantation for treatment of rectovaginal fistula in perianal Crohn’s disease: a new cell-based therapy. Int J Colorectal Dis. 2003;18(5):451–454.

63. Kato H, Mineda K, Eto H, et al. Degeneration, regeneration, and cicatization after fat grafting: dynamic total tissue remodeling during the first 3 months. Plast Reconstr Surg. 2014;133(3):303e–313e.

64. Conde-Green A, Kotamarti V, Nini KT, et al. Fat grafting for gluteal augmentation: A systematic review of the literature and meta-analysis. Plast Reconstr Surg. 2016;138(3):437e–446e.

65. Dreizen NG, Framm L. Sudden unilateral visual loss after autologous fat injection into the glabellar area. Am J Ophthalmol. 1999;127:85–87.

66. Tschopp H. Middle cerebral artery occlusion and ocular fat embolism after autologous fat injection in the face. J Neurol. 1998;245:53–54.

67. Lee DH, Yang HN, Kim JC, Shyn KH. Sudden unilateral visual loss and brain infarction after autologous fat injection into nasolabial groove. Br J Ophthalmol. 1996;80:1026–1027.

68. Shiffman MA. Fat tissue embolism following fat transfer. Am J Cosmet Surg. 2012;29(2):145–149.

69. Teimourian B. Blindness following fat injections. Plast Reconstr Surg. 1988;82:361–362.

70. Dreizen NG, Framm L. Sudden unilateral visual loss after autologous fat injection into the glabellar area. Am J Ophthalmol. 1989;107:85–87.

71. Egidio JA, Arroyo R, Marcos A, et al. Middle cerebral artery embolism and unilateral visual loss after autologous fat injection into the glabellar area. Stroke. 1993;24:615–616.

72. Mofid MM, Teitelbaum S, Suissa D, et al. Report on mortality from gluteal fat grafting: recommendations from the ASERF task force. Aesthet Surg J. 2017;37(6):796–806.

73. Ramil ME. Fat grafting in the upper eyelids and volumetric upper blepharoplasty. Plast Reconstr Surg. 2017;140(5):889–897.

74. Rohrich RJ, Pessa JE. The fat compartments of the face: Anatomy and clinical implications for cosmetic surgery. Plast Reconstr Surg. 2007;119:2219–2227 discussion 2228–2231.

75. Yoshimura K, Suga H, Eto H. Adipose-derived stem/progenitor cells: roles in adipose tissue remodeling and potential use for soft tissue augmentation. Regen Med. 2009;4:265–273.

76. Mizuno H, Hyakusoku H. Fat grafting to the breast and adipose-derived stem cells: recent scientific consensus and controversy. Aesthet Surg J. 2010;30:381–387.

77. Choi M, Small K, Levovitz C, Lee C, Fadi A, Karp NS. The volumetric analysis of fat volume in breast reconstruction. Plast Reconstr Surg. 2013;131(2):185–191.