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EXPERIENCE WITH THE USE OF XENOGRAFTS IN FACIAL CONTOUR PLASTIC SURGERY

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Age is one of the social parameters of every individual in society; its perception in the course of communication is formed from numerous details of the visual assessment of appearance, arising from the condition of and relationship between the skin, soft tissues, and supporting structures of the face. In youth, appearance is perceived as an indicator of health and overall well-being. With age, due to the loss of elasticity and fragmentation of collagen in the soft tissues, the muscles and ligaments acquire an increased capacity and tendency toward stretching. Under the influence of gravity, the soft tissues undergo ptosis, altering the facial contour in a manner analogous to a loose-fitting dress that conceals the figure.

Aim of the study: to develop an approach to the use of xenografts in facial cosmetic surgery with the lowest possible degree of trauma and cost of the method.

Material and methods: a retrospective analysis of medical records was carried out for 19 patients over the period 2023–2025, with a follow-up period of 3 years. The condition of the facial soft tissues was assessed over time. Xenografts of various configurations were all implanted subcutaneously through a skin incision, following formation of the recipient bed and thorough hemostasis.

Indications for xenograft placement were determined on the basis of patients' complaints of dissatisfaction with their appearance, following a comprehensive assessment of the characteristics of the facial soft tissues.

Results and discussion: in facial contour plastic surgery using specially processed xenografts, good aesthetic results were achieved without suppuration of the surgical wounds. Following subcutaneous application of the xenografts, an improvement was noted in both the patients' appearance and their psychological state. During follow-up of the surgical outcomes, no cases of secondary deformity, wound suppuration, or displacement of the implanted xenografts were observed.

Our observation group comprised 19 patients: 8 men and 11 women, aged 19 to 66 years. Deformity in 4 patients resulted from previously sustained trauma to the frontal and zygomatic regions; in 6 patients, from a prior purulent-inflammatory process in the infraorbital region; in 5 patients, in the buccal region; and in 4 patients, in the glabellar region due to age-related changes. Concomitant conditions were identified in 14 of the 19 patients examined: chronic pneumonia in 2, chronic hepatitis in 3, hypertension in 6, and rheumatic disease in 3.

Thus, the introduction of newly developed xenografts into surgical practice, particularly in aesthetic surgery, makes it possible to achieve good cosmetic outcomes.

It should be emphasized that the proposed method of xenotransplantation makes an invaluable contribution to the development of reconstructive facial surgery and, to this day, retains its validity as an option when selecting the optimal treatment plan.