

THE TOTAL PLATYSMA MUSCLE TRANSECTION, A SOLUTION TO IMPROVE FACELIFTS LONG-TERM OUTCOMES IN SELECTED CASES: A CLINICAL AND ANATOMICAL STUDY.

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Abstract

Introduction. Determining which facelift technique provides the best long-term rejuvenation results and the best stability over time is a major question in cosmetic surgery: does the most invasive surgery produce the best long-term results? The purpose of this study is to assess the authors' total platysma muscle transection technique and to show the rationale of their procedure through an anatomical study.

Material and methods. Ten consecutive cadaveric SMAS and platysma dissections (20 hemi-necks and faces) were performed by our team to study the innervation. The authors present a series as well of 80 patients who have benefited from a total transection of their platysma muscles. Cosmetic outcomes were assessed using an objective face assessment scale. The scores calculated by 3 blind evaluators before surgery, 1, and 5 years postoperatively were compared using a matched T-Test. A p value of < 0.05 was considered significant.

Results. Cadaveric dissections showed a constant and rich anastomotic system between the cervical branch of the facial nerve and the branches of the cervical plexus that innervates the platysma. Clinical outcomes were satisfactory, with a significant improvement in the overall appearance of the treated areas ($p < 0.00001$).

Conclusions. Our anatomical findings explain the rationale for total transection of the platysma muscle to provide long-lasting results. Authors' technique allows to achieve satisfactory long-term results with

a low complication rate. However, considering the longer operating time, the difficult learning curve, the longer postoperative discomfort, we do not think that it has to be implemented systematically. It should be considered only in severe platysma bands cases, and especially in intractable cases. Other combined techniques are sufficient in most cases.

Keywords: facelift, rejuvenation surgery, SMAS flap, platysma muscles transection, platysma myotomy, cervicoplasty, ageing, face scales.