



Preface  
Dermatology for the facial plastic surgeon



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*Guest Editor*

Facial plastic surgeons work intimately with skin on a daily basis, whether it is on top, within, or under it. There are many dermatologic conditions that impact the safety and efficacy of cosmetic and reconstructive procedures such as skin infection, dermatitis, dyschromias, and topical agents that the patient might be using. This issue of *Facial Plastic Surgery Clinics of North America* is devoted to topics that are relevant to facial plastic surgeons that should increase their knowledge of dermatology as it relates to their practice.

Dr. Muccini addresses the mutually beneficial relationships that facial plastic surgeons and dermatologists enjoy, with the dermatologist referring patients for reconstructive and cosmetic surgery and the facial plastic surgeons referring patients for expert skin care. Such care might include Mohs micrographic surgery and the treatment of dermatologic conditions either before patients undergo cosmetic surgery or to help manage dermatologic complications after cosmetic surgery.

Infectious and inflammatory skin diseases can complicate otherwise outstanding cosmetic surgery results. The ability to quickly identify common eruptions and treat them or refer patients for appropriate management can significantly enhance cosmetic outcomes and patient satisfaction. Contact dermatitis to topically applied medications, cosmetics, and cosmeceuticals is a significant problem that often goes undetected for an unnecessarily long period of time, delaying treatment and making the patient suffer

needlessly. Through detailed history and skin testing, the dermatologist can precisely identify the offending agent and suggest alternative topicals.

The first sign of an underlying systemic disease is often found on the skin. Correctly identifying the underlying condition and referring the patient for appropriate management might be a lifesaver.

Patients with alopecia and pigmentary disorders are often seen by facial plastic surgeons. Nonsurgical alternatives for male pattern baldness and medical management of other types of alopecia might be helpful to consider before resorting to surgical intervention. The treatment of pigmentary disorders is challenging and often requires a combination of surgical and medical management for even modest improvement.

There are hundreds—if not thousands—of prescription and over-the-counter products that claim to provide dermatologic benefits such as reversal of photodamage and wrinkles. Dr. Glaser cuts through the hype and presents an unbiased assessment of what works and has scientific support for its claims and what types of products might just be costly snake oil.

Laser technology is developing at warp speed, with new lasers and light sources being introduced almost daily. The indications for laser treatment are expanding in lockstep with the technology. Dr. Kilmer provides an up-to-the-minute update of the latest and greatest laser and light source technology for cosmetic indications and the treatment of skin disease.

Benign and malignant skin tumors are the mainstay of many facial plastic surgeons' and dermatologists' practices. The three skin tumor articles in this issue are written from the dermatologist's point of view with an emphasis on early diagnosis. The clinical features of skin tumors that a facial plastic surgeon might encounter are discussed in detail. Accurate clinical diagnosis of a skin growth before taking the scalpel in hand helps to determine the best way to manage it in a way that leaves the patient with the smallest possible scar while minimizing the chance for tumor recurrence. Facial plastic surgeons have the opportunity to identify potentially malignant lesions at each consultation, assuring early diagnosis and treatment with the end result of improved prognosis.

With an understanding of basic dermatology and application of the concepts presented herein, the facial plastic surgeon should be able to improve their diagnostic and therapeutic skills for the benefit of their patients.

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