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Illegal permanent fillers

John J. Martin

John Martin M.D., USA

Abstract

Introduction: There have been an increased number of reports of illegal permanent fillers being administered to patients by non-physician injectors over the last few years. This has been a major problem in the south Florida area, where one person has been arrested for injection of toxic substances such as fix-a-flat and cement for buttock's enhancement. And most recently an arrest has been made for manslaughter after the injection of unknown fillers into a patient's body.

Many of the patients who have received illegal permanent fillers, most of which are biopolymer, a type of silicone. It is usually injected in large volumes into the face, breasts and buttocks. While some patients have an immediate inflammatory response to the substances, some patients have late migration and inflammatory nodules which develop several months later.

Methods: Multiple patients who have had illegal fillers injected into the face have been examined and treated with a variety of modalities. These have included steroid injections, laser lipolysis and ulthera.

Results: Many patients show some improvement with steroid injections. However significant softening and shrinkage of the nodules has been seen with Ulthera. In some cases surgical excision has been used to remove the nodules.

Conclusion: Illegal fillers into the face can produce significant disfigurement. While there is no way to remove the substance injected, improvement can be seen using a variety of modalities.

Biography

John Martin is a graduate of Williams College and Harvard Medical School. He did a residency in ophthalmology at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, followed by a fellowship in ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. He is board certified in ophthalmology, and is also board certified in facial plastic surgery by the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery. Dr. Martin is a Fellow of the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery, the International Society of Cosmetic Laser Surgery, and is a member of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.