Microdermal Grafting for White Scar

*Su-Ben Tsao, Pei-Jung Yang, Jian-Zhi Lee

*Taiwan Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery

Dr. Tsao's Clinic of Plastic Surgery

Kaohsiung, Taiwan

ABSTRACT

White Scar is the final and permanent color of mature scar, it usually expresses and reminds people of some unpleasant past or private life experiences, such as suicide or cosmetic surgery. Therefore, many patients come and ask for taking off their white scars.

The white mark cannot be removed by current medical treatments, including laser, scar revision or phototherapy. Medical tattooing can camouflage it, but hardly can create the same color as surrounding normal skin. Microdermal grafting, thereafter, become the terminator of white scar treatment.

The purpose of microdermal grafting is to change the white scar color to normal skin color. It is made through the grafting of 1~2mm sized particles of patient's own skin, after deepithelialization, onto the white scar, at its deep dermal layer after punctured by 18 Gauze needle, and was grafted with 1~2mm punctured hole interval . The donor site is from patient's retroauricular skin.

The surgery has been done in our clinic for more than 18 years, this paper is the retrospective study of the treatment. 38 cases were enrolled in the study, which were all treated within the recent 3 years. Among them, 30 cases were females and 8 cases were males. The average patient age was 34 years old. 85% of the patients' white scars were on the faces, the others were on the bodies. Their major locations include : lips, cheeks, foreheads, eyelids, necks and forearms. 80% cases received one session treatment. 16% received two sessions treatment with 3 months interval, and 4% received three sessions treatment.

Of the 38 patients, 27(71%) completed a questionnaire at one year postoperatively, to assess their improvement with the procedure. The average improvement rates, from patient's subjective site are : 55% for one session treatment, 88% for two session treatment, and 95% for three treatment. Whereas from 3 layman's average objective site are : 49% for 1 session, 75% for 2 sessions, and 90% for 3 sessions. There is no any treatment complication noted, neither from donor nor recipient site.

During the presentation, we will show the operation procedure, combined with short video tapes, as well as typical cases with different scar locations.