

The End of Surgery? Correcting eyelid malpositions with hyaluronic acid filler

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Introduction: The role of hyaluronic acid (HA) fillers in the periocular region continues to expand. In addition to cosmetic uses in the periocular region, HA fillers are increasingly being used instead of surgery to correct upper and lower eyelid malpositions such as lower lid ectropion/retraction, hollow superior sulcus, and paralytic lagophthalmos.

Methods and methods:

Retrospective review of patients who were treated with HA filler instead of surgery for: hollow superior sulcus (21 lids), paralytic lagophthalmos (3 lids), and lower lid ectropion/retraction (11 lids).

Results: For each of these periocular conditions, successful treatment was achieved using HA filler without the need for surgery. Overall, both patients and physicians were very pleased with the outcomes. One lid retraction patient had post-filler edema which was treated with hyaluronidase but the lid position remained stable. One lid retraction patient desired additional correction with surgery.

Conclusion: HA fillers are being successfully utilized for correction of eyelid malpositions and deformities, previously considered to be correctable only by surgical procedures. More than just an easier and quicker alternative to surgery, the use of HA fillers in the periocular region has enhanced our understanding of the anatomic changes in these conditions. Prior to filler correction, the focus was on tightening and lifting of the tissues. Currently, emphasis is placed on correcting deflation of the soft tissues and unfolding the upper or lower lid. HA filler correction of lid malposition is rapid, safe, and effective with high patient satisfaction.

References: Hartstein ME. Injectable adjunctive procedures for cosmesis and function. *Facial Plas Surg Clin N Am* 24 (2016) 139-44.