PRINTZLAU

PRIVATHOSPITAL

Information on fat transfer to the face

Purpose

The purpose of fat transfer surgery is to smoothen deep wrinkles, to fill the hollows of the face or to provide volume to the face. The purpose is to improve the facial structure and shape, and fat transfer surgery is very well suited for restoring age-related volume loss in the face.

Background

Fat transfer surgery can provide a moderate increase in the volume of the facial tissue. For the face, there is a choice to make as to whether you prefer filler injected with a syringe (e.g. Re-stylane) or a fat transfer. Transferring fat to the face provides more volume, and the result is durable over several years, given that the fat cells survive.

Technique

The surgery is performed either under general anesthesia or under local anesthesia, which can be supplemented with additional pain relieving medication and sedatives depending on the extent of the surgery. The fat used in the transfer is commonly harvested during liposuction of the belly. Local anesthesia is injected in the area where the fat cells are harvested to decrease bleeding. Special vacuum syringes remove the necessary amount of fat through small incisions on the abdominal skin. The fat is prepared for transfer and centrifuged in order to inject pure fat in small pockets in the area of the face where increased volume is desired.

Process

It is important not to disturb the areas of the face that fat has been transferred to. These areas must not be rubbed or massaged, and it is important not to put pressure on those areas of the face while you sleep, which is why you should avoid sleeping on your stomach. Any threads are removed after 7 days. Pain can be relieved with mild painkillers. You can resume daily activities, and work can be resumed after a few days or a week. Sport and physical activity can be resumed after 3-4 weeks, when the soreness has worn off.

Consequences

Soreness, swelling and changes in sensation in the treated areas of the face and irregularities under the skin are part of a normal healing process.

Complications

During fat transfer surgery, it is to expect that some of the fat will not survive the transfer, and some of the fat will disappear during the initial healing process. Complications are rare but may involve hematomas, infections and changes in sensation of the skin. The primary risk is that the fat does not survive the transfer well and does not provide the expected result.

Results and expectations

Smoothened deep wrinkles and more volume in the face. It may be necessary to repeat the fat transfer to achieve the desired result. From your first consultation, a minimum of one week should pass before you can have the surgery. Final consent to the surgery can only be given after this time period. You can bring an assessor with you during your first consultation.