

New technique means mesh can now be used in face

BY CHRIS GAINOR

MONTREAL — Nylamid pads have overcome initial problems in facial plastic surgery and are now the best available implant for procedures such as nasal tip rhinoplasty, according to Dr. Nabil Fanous, assistant professor of otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery at McGill University.

Nylamid pads are meshes made out of a nylon derivative into which connective tissue invades after implantation, Dr. Fanous said in an interview.

"Because the body fills that mesh it feels like the body," he said, adding that the Nylamid remains fixed to the underlying tissue after implantation.

But the pads have been available for



Dr. Nabil Fanous

15 years, he said, and early experience turned most plastic surgeons away from use of the material.

"Not many physicians have used it because they felt that it is rejected by the body and has a high rate of infection. I started using the material, believing the problem was not the material itself but the way it was used.

"We changed the technique and we have used it successfully in over 200 cases," Dr. Fanous said.

"The people who used the material before apparently felt that by simply using the material, it would work. When it failed, they said it's bad because the mesh is bad.

"People never calculated the number of layers they needed for each implant. They just folded a piece until it felt right."

In more than 200 nasal tip rhinoplasties, Dr. Fanous said he has had a success rate of 98%.

After contacting the company making the pads about his guidelines and publishing his results, Dr. Fanous said the utility of the implants has now become widely known.

One of the problems with Nylamid pads is that they can shrink 15% in some cases over two or three years after implantation, and so he has embarked on research to find better materials.

Despite this problem, he said the material is clearly superior to autologous implants or silastic implants because of its natural feel and the fact



BEFORE plastic surgery with Nylamid pads



AFTER nasal tip rhinoplasty using the pads

that it becomes fixed.

"The overwhelming majority of my patients think it's just great. We now have an implant that feels just like the body.

"The area which is very critical in implants is the face, because there, you not only have to fill the gap but you have to make it look good and feel

good. The area in the face which is the most delicate and requires the most sophisticated surgery is the nose, and the nasal tip is most the critical area because it has a very thin skin."

Dr. Fanous said it is important that the surgeon implanting the pads is experienced in plastic surgery and

knows the guidelines.

"In implanting it, you have to calculate how many layers you use, the shape of the layers, the way the pocket is made, the way it is closed, and so on."

The implant is also useful elsewhere in the face and can be used throughout the body, he added.