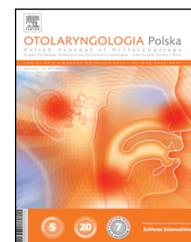


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Letter to Editor/List do Redakcji

“Nose up” serum/cream replaces augmentation rhinoplasty – Fact or fantasy?

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A flat nasal bridge, indistinct dorsal aesthetic line, an under projected and broad nasal tip, and a short columella are common characteristics of the Asian nose. To enhance the nasal appearance, many Asians seek augmentation rhinoplasty, but this procedure is considered invasive and can lead to complications. Over the past few years, injection of dermal fillers has gained more popularity to replace the conventional, more invasive, rhinoplasty. Albeit temporary, it is simple, effective and cheaper [1]. Nevertheless, many individuals with an Asian nose may suffer from economic restraint and/or would not like to receive the surgery. Other alternatives have been sought and commercialised.

Recently, “Nose up” serum/cream becomes well-known in Asian countries where people seek to improve their nasal appearance. This product is claimed to be composed of glucosamine sulphate, calcium and collagen from deep-sea crustaceans. Once applied directly to the nose (coupled with the use of a nasal clip) every day for 1–6 months, it would increase vascularity, and induce chondrogenesis, osteogenesis and subsequent enhancement of the nasal dorsal aesthetics. Some manufacturers claimed that the product was discovered by the Korean Medical Association, Harvard University and University of Venice, Italy. It was tested by Korea University Medical Center, Harvard University Medical Center, United States Plastic Manhattan Medical Center, Tokyo University Medical Center and other world-renowned cosmetic plastic surgical institutes [2–4].

To the best of our knowledge, there is neither consensus nor clinical guidelines addressing the use of crustaceans-derivative products to replace augmentation rhinoplasty that are supported by evidence-based literature. An evaluation of the current evidence on the effects of this

intervention is therefore important, and is also important for the design of future trials.

This structured/systematic review study design was based on our previous studies [5–7]. We searched the following databases in January 2013: the Cochrane Ear, Nose and Throat Disorders Group Trials Register, the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), PubMed, EMBASE, CINAHL, Web of Science, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, Google Scholar, the French, German and Thai biomedical databases (available from <http://www.biusante.parisdescartes.fr/medecine/debut.htm>, http://www.uni-marburg.de/bis/digitale_bibliothek, <http://www.ub.uni-leipzig.de/> and http://www.kmutt.ac.th/jif/public_html/) and the online databases of 48 relevant journals (For the complete list, please refer to Pitak-Arnop et al. [8]). The used specific medical subject headings (MeSH) and keywords included (*nose*) (*cream/serum/glucosamine/calcium/collagen*) and (*crustacean*). We also contacted investigators and manufacturers, including the abovementioned society, medical centres and universities, to ask for details of additional published and unpublished data. The bibliographies of relevant articles were reviewed for applicable citations that might not have appeared in the initial database search.

Inclusion criteria were the presence of extractable data on the use of “Nose Up” serum/cream to raise the nasal dorsum, published in English, French, German or Thai, and sample size greater than five. We excluded all ‘non-evidence’ papers: single case reports or small case series ($n \leq 5$), technical notes, animal or laboratory studies, expert opinions, tutorials and narrative reviews.

Data regarding demographic characteristics of the study participants, follow-up duration, outcomes and complications were extracted by three review authors (P.P., N.C.P. and K.D.). A third party (A.N.) resolved disputes as appropriate. Discrepancies in the extracted data were resolved by discussion and agreement of all authors. Study design and level of evidence were categorised according to the Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM)’s guidelines (available from <http://www.cebm.net>).

The recommendations of the Helsinki declaration were thoroughly maintained during this study. As a review of existing data, this study was exempted from the ethical approval at our institutions and from obtaining the consent from the journals and the authors involved.

We found that no study was included in this review (the 'non-evidence' paper was also absent). The academic institutions cited above also declined any involvement on this product. The absolute absence of reliable evidence for the efficacy of "Nose Up" serum/cream to augment the nasal dorsum precludes any firm recommendations for clinical practice. This emphasises the need for well-designed, adequately powered, future researches before this product can be used with confidence. Moreover, it should receive the FDA approval before commercialisation or promotion by physicians.

Authors' contributions/Wkład autorów

PP-A, NChP, KD – conception, design, literature search, experimental studies, acquisition and analysis of data, statistical analysis, manuscript preparation, editing and review. AN – conception, design, acquisition and analysis of data, manuscript editing and review.

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Conflict of interest/Konflikt interesu

None declared.

Ethics/Etyka

The work described in this article have been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans; EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments; Uniform Requirements for manuscripts submitted to Biomedical journals.

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