

Cosmetic Surgery Times[®]

November/December 2003

Where the Exchange on
Aesthetic Perspective Begins

Endotine viable for old brow lift problems

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Los Angeles — A new bioabsorbable fixation device, the Endotine, brings ease, predictability, and improved results to the forehead lift, according to W. Grant Stevens, M.D., F.A.C.S. "Prior to Endotine, we did endoscopic surgery and fixated with screws or sutures. With the Endotine we've eliminated screws and added much more predictability to the height of the lift."

Developed by Coapt Systems of Palo Alto, Calif., the Endotine is a small triangular device about the size of a dime. Its unique design centers around a multipoint fixation technology, which distributes the pressure of lift over a broader area than can be accomplished with a single point of fixation. As the periosteum and galea reattach in their new, higher positions, the body absorbs the device. Research suggests that the biological fixation process is largely concluded within 60 days. By six months, the device has lost 95 percent of its strength and 50 percent of its mass. Full absorption takes a year.

An associate clinical professor of plastic surgery at the University of Southern California Medical Center in Los Angeles, Dr. Stevens conducted a nine-patient clinical trial on a beta version of the Endotine. On the basis of that study, he concluded that the device was easy and fast to install, provided secure fixation, was adjustable during the intraoperative or postoperative period, and produced excellent aesthetic results. The major problem was palpability. Three patients also complained of

pain. Dr. Stevens removed one implant.

Said the surgeon, "The first generation worked well, but on the basis of my recommendations, some improvements were made in the overall height of the tines, the width of the plate, and the rate at which the Endotine dissolves. This has led to a dramatic improvement in palpability."

The revised Endotine has 50 percent less mass and a new recipe combining poly lactic and poly glycolic acid. Coapt Systems is testing the product in 12 countries. More than 2,000 patients have been fitted, compared to 150 for the beta version. "I've had no complaints from patients, and I haven't removed any," Dr. Stevens said.

He noted that hair loss has been a side effect of traditional endoscopic brow lifts. With the Endotine, he said, "I haven't had any hair loss at any time, not with generation one or two. That's a terrific advantage. I was constantly doing revisions in the past."

Dr. Stevens described the protocol for installing the Endotine as follows: "You start with a standard procedure for endoscopy. The scalp is undermined, and the corrugator and procerus muscles are resected. You drill out small holes in the outer cortex in two lateral skull locations with custom drill bits at the incision site. The scalp is prepared for lifting and retracting. The Endotine has a dowel that acts as a peg. It clicks into place. Then the scalp is retracted and secured onto the actual tines like carpet tacks."

The Endotine "is very efficient in the time it takes to perform. It's user-friendly, not cumbersome."

GRANT STEVENS, M.D.
associate clinical professor
of plastic surgery, University
of Southern Calif.

The total insertion time is less than two minutes. "It's very efficient in terms of the time it takes to perform," said Dr. Stevens. "It's user-friendly, not cumbersome."

Sensitivity to plastic biomaterials is an obvious contraindication. Two others are: patients who may not have sufficient cranial thickness to support the 3.95 mm post or who have thin, atrophic scalps. (Holes are drilled anterior to the coronal suture and medial to the temporal fusion lines, where the bone is thickest.)

All Coapt products are currently investigational devices. The company anticipates near term FDA approval for the Endotine Forehead and devices for mid-face and chin lifts. Future products may address thigh lifts and the repair of ligaments and tendons. **CST**

Dr. Stevens reported no financial interest in Coapt Systems.

For more information: *Aesthetic Surg J* 2003; 23:103-107. www.coaptsystems.com

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