FEATURE ARTICLES

Radiofrequency-based device enables simultaneous fat removal, skin-tightening
By Cheryl Guttman Krader
A new platform for bipolar radiofrequency-assisted liposuction (RFAL; BodyTite, Invasix) is promising technology for performing body contouring in an outpatient setting under local anesthesia. However, achieving safe and successful outcomes requires careful technique and patient selection, says Spero J. Theodorou, M.D.

Liposuction with laser assistance and local anesthesia proves safe, effective
By Cheryl Guttman Krader
Outcomes from 1,500 consecutive cases of office-based, laser-assisted liposuction using local anesthesia show it is a viable alternative to liposuction under traditional anesthesia for body contouring in appropriately selected patients, says Christopher T. Chia, M.D.

Research lacking for seroma prevention in abdominoplasty/abdominal lpectomy
By Cheryl Guttman Krader
Results of a systematic review and meta-analysis highlight the limitations of research investigating methods for preventing seroma after abdominoplasty/abdominal lpectomy and fail to demonstrate superiority of any one technique. However, the findings support use of some method to attempt to reduce the risk, said Ali Izadpanah, M.D., C.M., M.Sc., at the 91st annual meeting of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons.

Lid-cheek junction complications require conservative approach
By John Jesitus
Preventing and treating complications in the lid-cheek junction demands a cautious approach, as well as the ability to match procedures to the underlying problem, says Michael P. Grant, M.D., Ph.D.

Sclerosant safety profile, vessel size dictate appropriate vein treatment choice
By Rochelle Nataloni
There are a variety of options available today for patients who wish to be rid of lower-extremity spider and reticular veins, but sclerosants remain the most popular, says Neil Sadick, M.D. When choosing which sclerosing agent to use for a particular patient, Dr. Sadick says he considers several factors.

Photodynamic therapy delivers facial rejuvenation without significant downtime
By Cheryl Guttman Krader
A randomized, split-face, controlled study has shown that photodynamic treatment using hexylaminolevulinate HCl (HAL; Allumera, PhotoCure) and multiple laser and light sources is safe, well tolerated and effective for photorejuvenation, says Sabrina Fabi, M.D.

Deciding on cosmetic surgery versus fillers depends on short- and long-term views
By Cheryl Guttman Krader
Most aesthetic surgeons would agree that injectable fillers have a role for rejuvenation of the aging face. However, consideration of patients with poor cosmetic results or frank complications after repeated filler injections and the cumulative costs and downtime associated with this practice reinforces the need for thoroughly reviewing the pros and cons of all options and remembering to be a doctor first.

Associations between cellulite, other fat, and aging continue to intrigue researchers
By Cheryl Guttman Krader
Understanding of the pathophysiology of cellulite may help to guide the development of interventions for improving its appearance. At the 26th annual scientific meeting of the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery, speakers discussed associations between cellulite, other subcutaneous fat and aging.

Cosmetic surgeon maintains financial balance by adding vein care
By Rochelle Nataloni
Adding modern vein care to his cosmetic surgery practice was a synergistic move that helped Colin E. Bailey, M.D., maintain fiscal equilibrium even in the most unsettling economic times, he says.

Real benefits arise when surgeons become the patients
By Rochelle Nataloni

Participating in continuing education, attending medical symposia and keeping abreast of the latest research can help cosmetic surgeons arm themselves with the latest knowledge in their field. But there's another step that surgeons say is unparalleled when it comes to gaining perspective into their patents' experience and using it to make improvements in their treatment process: undergoing cosmetic surgery.

**Autologous fat injection corrects tear trough deformity**

*By Cheryl Guttman Krader*

For some patients with tear trough deformity, autologous fat may be the best material to use for lower eyelid augmentation, according to Sherrell J. Aston, M.D.

**Laser advances safely, successfully treat facial telangiectasia and reticular veins**

*By Cheryl Guttman Krader*

The advent of lasers and intense pulsed light (IPL) platforms has significantly improved the safety and efficacy of treating facial vessels, but the ability to address both telangiectasias and facial reticular veins requires the use of different lasers and appropriate settings, says Mitchel P. Goldman, M.D. His tools of choice are IPL for treating facial telangiectasias and a long-pulsed, dynamically cooled 1,064 nm Nd:YAG laser for periocular veins.

**How to prepare for duty as an expert witness in a medical trial**

*By Ilya Petrou, M.D.*

Being an expert witness in a medical legal battle could be a challenging experience for any physician who volunteers for this duty. Knowing the facts of the case in great detail and remaining truthful and ethical throughout the procedure are two principles that a physician must follow in order to complete the task with integrity and reputation intact, according to two physicians familiar with the process.

**Modern endovenous laser therapy services augment scope of cosmetic surgery practices**

*By Cheryl Guttman Krader*

Endovenous laser therapy has revolutionized the treatment of varicose vein disease and has paved the way for such treatment's implementation into any full-service cosmetic surgery practice, said David A. Hendrick, M.D., at the 2012 scientific meeting of the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery.