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medical dermatology update

Questions and Answers

Q: What are the most popular cosmetic dermatology procedures today?

A: The most popular cosmetic dermatology procedures performed include injections of filler substances and Botox. Injections of filler substances has risen 55 percent since 2003, largely because of the introduction of hyaluronic acid fillers. Currently, Restylane injections rank as the most common filler substance, followed by human collagen. Botox injections have also demonstrated a substantial 25-percent increase in incidence since 2003. Other minimally invasive procedures such as non-ablative lasers, have also surged in popularity. Looking to the future, the trend is toward less-invasive cosmetic dermatology procedures with minimal downtime.

Q: I recently heard about two women that died after applying topical anesthetic prior to a laser hair removal procedure. How is that possible and what can be done to avoid such a tragedy?

A: Compounded topical anesthetic creams can be unpredictable and should not be applied outside of a medical setting without a doctor's supervision. Moreover,

they should not be applied under occlusion over a large body surface area. Both of these women applied non-FDA-approved, compounded anesthetic creams over large body

MRSA is becoming more common, especially among individuals who participate in contact sports. The infection must be treated properly to avoid recurrence.

areas, under occlusion, without physician supervision or monitoring. Topical anesthetics can be applied safely prior to laser hair removal in appropriate doses and under medical supervision.

Q: Recently, my son who is a healthy high-school student on the school wrestling team developed an abscess. Initially, the dermatologist treated him with antibiotics that did not clear his infection. A culture was performed, which revealed an antibiotic-resistant bacteria. My doctor told us that he had MRSA. What can you tell me about this type of infection? Is it serious and what can we do to treat it?

A: MRSA or methicillin resistant Staph Aureus infection,



is becoming more common in the community, especially among individuals who participate in contact sports. This bacterial infection is resistant to antibiotics commonly used to treat such infections in the community. The infection can be more difficult to treat, but will generally respond to incision, drainage and appropriate antibiotic therapy. In individuals predisposed to recurrent infection, the application of Bactroban ointment in the nasal passages and cleansing with chlorhexidine, will lessen the likelihood of recurrence. ■

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