Preface

Fat Grafting in Plastic Surgery

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Autologous fat grafting has increased in popularity over the last two decades in both cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery procedures. Research has led to a better understanding of the biology of adipose tissue and the scientific principles behind its behavior and survival. New purification and processing technologies have also emerged resulting in increased quality and efficiency of fat transfer. As a result, the number of uses for fat grafting continues to increase. Fat grafting for buttocks and breast augmentation provides an alternative to implants for many patients. In face and hand rejuvenation, the longevity of grafted fat has afforded patients a substitute to temporary fillers. In reconstructive surgery, fat grafting provides long term treatment options for congenital deformities in pediatric patients. Finally, in breast reconstruction, fat grafting has evolved to function as both a complimentary adjunct to established reconstructive techniques as well as a standalone technique for whole breast reconstruction.

Despite all of these benefits for patients, autologous fat grafting has not been without controversy. With the increased interest has come greater scrutiny regarding the oncologic potential of adipose tissue and its potential interference with breast cancer screening. Despite this, many formalized clinical studies have refuted these initial concerns and have confirmed the safety of these procedures.

Therefore, it is with great excitement that I present this issue of *Seminars in Plastic Surgery* focused on the use of autologous fat grafting in our specialty. It has been an honor to have the opportunity to collaborate with so many talented surgeons who have contributed their expertise and knowledge to this collective body of work. I hope the readers will find the content useful and informative.

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