



## GUIDELINES

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## Letters

### Face Lifting in the Massive Weight Loss Patient: Modifications of Our Technique for This Population

Sir:

We read with interest the article by Narasimhan et al. entitled "Face Lifting in the Massive Weight Loss Patient: Modifications of Our Technique for This Population" published in the February issue of *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*.<sup>1</sup> In their work, the evidence related to face lifting is reviewed in detail, including preoperative planning and operative technique. In this article, the authors demonstrate a novel use of the systematic approach to facial rejuvenation, described in 2009 by Rohrich et al.,<sup>2</sup> to improve the results in deflated faces following massive weight loss. Because of the high prevalence of obesity, there is a growing

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demand for bariatric surgery worldwide,<sup>3</sup> and this new article brought to mind two comments.

First, we would like to acknowledge the authors' statement regarding soft-tissue volume replacement in this population. A better aesthetic concept than attempting to tighten a loose face is to restore facial shape. Probably the key to consistent results in face lifting is not the particular technique used but rather the preoperative aesthetic analysis and how the operative plan is individualized according to the aesthetic needs of each patient.<sup>4</sup> Patients with histories of massive weight loss often have compromised skin.<sup>5</sup> Volumetric addition through secondary agents such as autologous fat injection or injectable soft-tissue fillers can be useful in augmenting areas of facial deflation.

Second, currently, there is a lack of studies about the effects of bariatric surgery in facial appearance, and this is the subject of our Ph.D. thesis approved in 2014, and registered in the Brazilian National Ethics Committee (no. 39494914.1.0000.5336). We hope soon to be able to obtain and publish results of how the facial deflation in massive weight loss patient acts in facial aging perception. DOI: 10.1097/PRS.0000000000001489

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## DISCLOSURE

The authors have no financial interest to declare in relation to the content of this communication.

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