

Clinical Insights

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PART 2

THE HA⁵ REJUVENATING HYDRATOR EFFECT: PAIRING INJECTIONS WITH SKINCARE TO OPTIMIZE PATIENT EXPERIENCE AND OUTCOMES

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Although the mechanisms involved in the process of aging are not completely understood, one of its hallmarks is the reduction of epidermal function, which results in skin barrier dysfunction and dehydration. Hyaluronic acid (HA) is a key molecule involved in the control of skin hydration as well as epidermal homeostasis. Unfortunately, endogenous epidermal and dermal HA production significantly diminish with age, contributing to the formation of one of the most prominent signs of skin aging: wrinkles.

The appearance of lines or wrinkles results from structural changes in the skin organization caused by intrinsic and environmentally-induced factors. Facial injection procedures effectively treat deep skin folds or wrinkles by either targeting muscle movement in the case of neuromodulators, or volume loss in the case of dermal fillers. However, treatment of fine lines/wrinkles as well as improvements in surface skin texture or quality are hard to address with these procedures, as they are linked to alterations in the more superficial layers of the skin (epidermis).

SkinMedica's HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator with VitisenSCE™ tech-

nology was developed to address the unmet need of restoring epidermal homeostasis by supporting endogenous epidermal HA levels impacted by chronological and environmental factors. In addition to epidermal rejuvenation, HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator also provides an immediate improvement in the appearance of fine lines/wrinkles and skin textural smoothness. In an eight-week clinical usage study, HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator was shown to significantly improve the appearance of fine lines/wrinkles (periocular and forehead areas) and tactile roughness. Increased intrinsic skin hydration, as measured by corneometer instrumentation, was also observed. Improvements in overall skin quality were observed both immediately after application when the product was left upon the skin, as well as after long-term twice-daily use. These long-term benefits demonstrate HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator's ability to replenish the skin's own HA levels, thereby supporting overall epidermal health and skin hydration.

To assess how HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator might enhance patient experience outcomes when used post-neuromodulator injection, Dr. Sabrina Fabi from Cosmetic Laser Dermatology in San Diego, CA conducted a single-center clinical usage study in subjects who had pre-elected to receive a neuromodulator injection in the lateral canthal areas. These subjects were experienced injection recipients since they must have previously received at least two neuromodulator injections to the lateral canthal areas within the last 18 months of study participation. Dr. Fabi's study demonstrated an additive benefit of HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator to neuromodulator injections as patients showed significant improvements in the areas that were not injected.

What are some of the key skincare needs after injection procedures and what makes HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator a good complement to these procedures?

Dr. Fabi: Before receiving multiple injections patients have their facial skin wiped with alcohol, which may leave it feeling tight and

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Baseline, pre injection and pre-HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator application.
Product not on skin.



Baseline, post injection and HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator application.
Product on the skin



8 Weeks HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator (twice daily) post injection.
Product not on skin



Figure 1: Clinical photography showing changes in the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles after injection with a neuromodulator with or without HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator. Long term effects due to HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator usage twice daily were evaluated at week 8.

dry. HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator helped to soothe and calm the skin post-injection, which is important since from a patient's perspective, receiving an injectable may not be the most pleasant experience. In addition, perhaps most exciting for patients, they noticed the immediate smoothing of fine lines/wrinkles and skin texture improvements—something that most other topical products do not provide. With continued use of HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator, patients received the long-term benefits of restored levels of HA in the epidermis resulting in optimal epidermal health. Therefore, this product not only helped enhance patient experience outcomes post-injection, but also provided long-term epidermal rejuvenation, which definitely serves as a beneficial tool in the practice. If I can do anything to enhance the experience patients associate with coming to the practice and seeing me, I will do it as I believe this ultimately contributes to patient satisfaction and retention.

What have you observed from your clinical experience using HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator after neuromodulator injections?

Dr. Fabi: In our clinical study, we assessed the appearance of fine lines/wrinkles under the eye, and in the lateral canthal, forehead, perioral and cheek areas. We also assessed overall tactile roughness. Our observations can be divided into two categories: those observed immediately after neuromodulator injections while still in the office and those associated with the long-term use of the product at home (up to eight weeks).

Immediate Effects: I observed significant improvements in the appearance of fine lines/wrinkles in the under eye, lateral canthal, perioral, and forehead areas, as well as improvements in tactile roughness (all $p \leq 0.009$; $n=20$; student's paired t-test) at the baseline visit, after both the injection procedure and 15 minutes after application of HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator. It is important to note that areas such as under the eye, perioral, and cheek areas were not treated by injection and thus these immediate improvements can be directly attributed to topical application of HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator. Even in the lateral canthal area, which was injected, we would not expect such immediate improvements in the appearance of fine lines (Figure 1).

The subjects also noticed these instant benefits, with 95% agreeing that HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator made their skin feel smooth and soft, and 90% agreeing that it was the "perfect finishing touch" to their in-office injection procedure. Ninety percent of subjects also felt that HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator "calmed [their] skin after the injection procedure."

Long-term Effects: To assess the long-term effects of using HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator twice daily, subjects were scheduled to return at weeks 2, 4 and 8. From the subjects that have completed to date, we observed continued improvement in tactile roughness and in the appearance of fine lines/wrinkles in all areas previously mentioned (Figure 1). Since no product was left upon the skin for these long-term assessments, these improvements demonstrate the cosmetic efficacy of VitisenSCE technology in supporting HA levels for optimal epidermal health.

What type of feedback have you received from your patients?

Dr. Fabi: Long-term feedback received from patients is that they feel their skin looks more radiant, dewy and fresh. Most importantly they associated the application of the HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator as something that made their injectable visit a more pleasant one, which for me is most important. Ultimately patients spend a lot of money on their neuromodulator treatment and sometimes leave with their skin feeling dry and irritated from the skin preps we do, without the immediate gratification of results from their treatment. In the study, patients reported that the HA⁵ Rejuvenating Hydrator immediately calmed their skin and made it feel smoother and softer, which offers immediate gratification from the time and money they have spent on a treatment that will take a few days to show effect. ■