

Nuances in Superficial Musculoaponeurotic System Rhytidectomy



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KEYWORDS

- Rhytidectomy • Facelift • Biplanar facelift • SMAS • Superficial musculoaponeurotic system
- SMAS augmentation

KEY POINTS

- Biplanar superficial musculoaponeurotic system (SMAS) imbrication rhytidectomy provides natural, long-lasting results and limits risks of complications.
- Preoperative evaluation is crucial to achieving desired results, and may require the use of auxiliary procedures such as SMAS augmentation, facial implants, and skin resurfacing procedures.
- Thorough knowledge of anatomy of the face is paramount in choosing the appropriate techniques to achieve optimal outcomes.

INTRODUCTION

Surgical facial rejuvenation has had a fascinating evolution since its origin in the early twentieth century. Cosmetic surgery was deemed unethical and illegal in the 1920s, and, as a result, very little literature was published until it became more socially acceptable in the 1950s and 1960s. From the first descriptions of skin-only rhytidectomy, surgeons have continuously strived to deepen the knowledge of anatomy and the aging process to develop techniques that provide patients with long-term, rejuvenating outcomes. It was not until 1976 that Mitz and Peyronie¹ described the superficial musculoaponeurotic system (SMAS) and thus facilitated the development of the modern techniques of rhytidectomy.^{1,2}

Modern techniques have involved various maneuvers to address the position of the SMAS layer, which include SMAS plication or imbrication, deep plane techniques, and composite or subperiosteal approaches.³ In addition, several SMAS techniques have been described, including an extended SMAS rhytidectomy, lateral SMAS

rhytidectomy, and the biplane or triplane rhytidectomy.²⁻⁷ Each approach has advantages and disadvantages, and the technique performed often varies depending on individual patient needs and the surgeon's training. Regardless of approach, the goal is the same. Surgeons must provide cosmetic outcomes that reverse the age-related changes of the temples, cheek, and neck. This article describes our technique and experience in biplanar SMAS imbrication rhytidectomy.

ANATOMY

One of the most critical things that separates good surgeons from great surgeons is knowledge and familiarity of anatomy. The importance of detailed understanding of the fascial layers of the face is not only that it facilitates long-lasting correction of the aging face but also that it decreases the risk of complications. It is important that surgeons have a thorough understanding of the neurovascular structures of the face because sensory and motor nerve damage can significantly affect the patient's quality of life. Even if minor or temporary,

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