



AESTHETIC AND COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY (LASERS SEPARATE CATEGORY)

OFF-LABEL USE OF DERMAL FILLERS FOR EAR LOBE REPAIR

A Jain⁽¹⁾ - Hs Marwah⁽¹⁾

Dr Marwah's Skin, Hair, Laser & Cosmetic Centre, Dermatology, Mumbai, India⁽¹⁾

Background: Wearing heavy ethnic earrings amongst Indian women is considered “richness” and a part of the culture. The heaviness of the earrings causes damage to the earlobe, leading to cleft enlargement, making it difficult for women to wear even regular earrings. For this, they opt for a surgical repair, but after a few years, a new cleft formation happens.

Observation: We came with the novel idea of using Hyaluronic acid filler to decrease the size of the cleft, to allow these women to use the same piercing for future. We performed this on 4 females, age range 35-65 with 3 patients having two previous failed surgical repair and one who hadn't undergone surgery but had a big cleft. Injection of Hyaluronic acid filler, 0.2-0.4 mL per lobule was given, using a combination of serial threading and serial puncture. The filler was injected directly into the lobe and massaged into place to provide fullness to the lobe and to avoid lumps.

Key message: Along with the cleft repair, the filler also helped to rejuvenate sagging, atrophic or irregular earlobes and erase vertical rhytides. The benefits of this procedure are that - it avoids further scar formation on the small lobular area; almost painless; 15 minutes procedure; no after-care of the lobe, long-lasting (due to the lack of movement and metabolic activity in this region) and high patient satisfaction. The only drawback is repeating the procedure every year and the cost (in Indian scenario). Hyaluronic acid fillers are ideal for replenishing volume loss as well as work for cleft repair for earlobes. Patients have satisfactory bilateral earlobe shaping and symmetry results.

