Razabrasion: An Alternative Approach to Perioral Rhytides

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Abstract / Persistence of perioral rhytides is a frequent source of patient concern following standard rhytidectomy. Dissatisfaction with the limited results and occasional complications that result from mechanical, manual, and chemical abrasive methods of management prompted application of the steel blade dermal shave technique to this problem. Manual oscillation of a sterile commercial razor blade with depth and width controlled by digital pressure eradicates all but the deepest perioral wrinkles. Eleven patients have undergone "razabrasion" within the past 19 months without complication. Local anesthesia is sufficient. Topographically distant but synchronous facial operations may be performed safely, but undermining of the shaved facial skin should be avoided for 6 months after "razabrasion." Later results will be studied to define the longevity of the effect, but we are encouraged that the method offers the most gentle, most rapid, and best controlled (as to level of dermal shave) current method of tangential dermal splitting. The paper describes the technique of "razabrasion" of perioral rhytides and reports our early results.

KEY WORDS / Face—Surgery, Surgery, Plastic—Methods—Rhytides—Wrinkles

The direct insertion of orbicularis oris fibers into the perioral dermis is as responsible for the seductive mouth of a coed as for the furrowed lips of her mother. The challenge in treatment of perioral rhytides lies in the restoration of a smooth but still animated lip surface. Lateral tightening of facial skin by conventional rhytidectomy does not significantly improve perioral wrinkles. This limitation has evoked a number of direct approaches to the problem (11). Partial-thickness removal of perioral skin by chemical deepithelialization or physical abrasion is currently...
Fig. 1. Razabrasion treatment of major perioral rhytides in a 53-year-old woman with no prior facial cosmetic surgery who only desired elimination of perioral wrinkles. (A and C): Preoperative views. (B and D): Appearance 12 months postoperatively. Same patient as Figs. 4A and 4D.