Cosmetics as An Esthetic Aid to the Plastic Surgery Patient

Reference is often made to the use of cosmetics to augment the natural appearance of a facial prosthesis or residual scar. However, specific details given to the patient rarely extend beyond, “you may want to use make-up to blend the surgical areas or the margins of the prosthesis with your skin.” The experience gathered by the Department of Maxillofacial Prosthetics, Washington University, School of Dental Medicine indicates that specific guidelines may be presented to the patient which will greatly improve the esthetics of the surgical results.

The specific products discussed in this paper are manufactured by Mary Kay Cosmetics, Incorporated though other cosmetics may be used with the same basic technique.

Basic Concepts

The basic coverage make-up to be used is the Mary Kay Day Radiance. Basic concepts of cosmetology refer to certain shades of Day Radiance as either concealants or enhancers while the yellow shade is used as an “erase-all.” It may be applied to any defect to minimize its appearance or to prepare the surface for coverage with a natural shade. Scar tissue is favorably covered with yellow because it tends to draw

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the purple from the area. White Day Radiance is applied to enhance, increase or add to a portion of the face. Any shade darker than the natural skin tone will tend to hollow out the area to which it is applied. Finally, a shade near the natural color of the skin may be added over the entire face to blend seasonal changes in skin color. Use of a cosmetic pencil may add needed depth to approach symmetry in certain areas of the face.

Technique

1. Apply Yellow Day Radiance to areas of the face which are to be minimized, i.e. scar tissue, uneven skin tone, marginal areas to be covered by prosthesis.
2. Where there are raised or prominent areas, a shade somewhat darker than the natural color should be applied to reduce the prominence.
3. Apply White Day Radiance to areas which should be highlighted.
4. Next, a shade closest to natural skin color should be blended over the entire face.
5. Apply the blush or rouge.
6. At this point, any areas which need to be more detailed may be penciled in with a cosmetic pencil. This may add needed depth and contour to achieve symmetry.
7. The eyes are completed next. Eye shadow, liner, and mascara are used appropriately. The brows are brushed and colored slightly.
8. The final step is the lips. Outlining should be done with a cosmetic pencil. Lips should be drawn in pleasantly symmetrical. Color can then be added with lipstick to fill in the outlined areas.

Summary

A technique has been described to achieve a symmetry of color and contour between the surgically scarred areas and the rest of the face.