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Plastic Surgeon Finds Natural Protein Injection That Melts Fat

FDA-Approved Testing Shows Positive Outcome – May Pave the Way for Approval of Non-Surgical Body Fat Removal

New York, NY December 17, 2002 - So far the closest anyone has come to literally ridding the body of fat in a day is liposuction. But for many, the ordeal doesn't seem worth it. For more than a year, FDA-approved testing has been done quietly on a naturally occurring human protein that seems able to melt fat. The tests are being done on the condition known as lipoma. Lipomas are very commonly occurring benign fatty tumors that appear as soft lumps under the skin and sometimes cause pain or irritation. This condition is quite common. Until now, surgery was the only option for removing these lumps of fat. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has allowed **Long Island Plastic Surgeon Dr. Zachary Gerut to be the only surgeon to conduct a clinical study using the enzyme called Collagenase to non-surgically melt the fat of lipomas. Dr. Gerut is the only surgeon authorized to perform these injections.**

Phase 1 of this study began in June of 2001 and so far, there is a positive response to the enzyme. If it gains FDA approval for this use, it will be the only FDA approved fat melting technique in The United States. Of late, there has been a plethora of coverage on fat melting techniques such as MesoTherapy and LipoStabil, neither of which has been FDA approved for this purpose or whose results are documented by controlled studies such as Dr. Gerut has accomplished.

What is the link between melting a lipoma and melting body fat? As Dr. Gerut explains, "It is common medical knowledge that the fat inside a lipoma is much the same as the rest of the normal body fat. If the fat inside of the lipoma can be melted, then any kind of fat should respond as well."

Dr. Gerut finds the FDA approval of his research extremely encouraging for those patients and physicians who hope to use Collagenase to one day melt lipomas or perhaps any body fat. He stresses that, "The FDA does not easily grant permission for physicians to do human cosmetic surgery research. Most often, a 'necessity' for a drug must be determined instead of a 'cosmetic desire.'" Therefore, lipomas have provided the perfect rational model to test the enzyme because lipomas are benign tumors as opposed to a cosmetic defect. Even if the enzyme worked to melt lipomas and not body fat, this alone would prove to be a significant finding.

How does this treatment work? The Collagenase is mixed with saline (injectable salt water) and injected into the lipoma. The dose given depends on the size of the lipoma. The results have been dramatic: within weeks, the shrinkage of the lipoma is evident and within months, the size is diminished by half or more. Before and after photos document patients with lipomas that have been dissipated.

Promising news already exists that the enzyme (Collagenase) is already in use in several FDA approved clinical investigations for treatment of various problems such as excessive scar tissue and keloids. In addition, the Collagenase injections are not painful and each treatment includes only one injection into the lipoma. After just one treatment, there is somewhere between a 50-80% shrinkage rate. If these results can be replicated on regular human body fat, then this country will find itself with a substance that will be the only FDA approved treatment to melt excess body fat without surgery.

Collagenase is manufactured by Biospecifics Technologies Corporation (NASDAQ: BSTC), based in Lynbrook, NY.

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