

Nonresective shrinkage of the septum and fat compartments of the upper and lower eyelids: A comparative study with carbon dioxide laser and Colorado needle

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BACKGROUND: The purpose of this article is to describe an alternative nonresective treatment of the fat-septum component of the eyelids during blepharoplasty, using shrinkage desiccation with two low-energy modalities: a carbon dioxide laser and a low-range grid of electrocautery with a Colorado microdissection needle. **METHODS:** Thirty-six patients underwent a four-lid blepharoplasty. During surgery, after exposure (not opening) of the septum and assessment of the amount of bulging by gentle globe compression, a grid spray of electrocautery (right eye) and carbon dioxide laser (left eye) was applied over the entire septum until shrinkage and correction of the bulging was achieved. Preoperative, postoperative day 15, and 1-year follow-up photographs were evaluated using an objective grading system by blinded surgeons. For statistical analysis, the Wilcoxon matched-pairs signed-ranks test was used, with $p < 0.05$ indicating statistical significance. **RESULTS:** All the patients completed the