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Facial Changes in the Mature Patient

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Abstract

During the ageing process, the appearance of human face changes significantly, due to

fundamental changes in the bones, soft tissues, and skin. Both endogenous and environmental

factors are involved in the development of the age-related changes of the face; however, facial

skin is particularly exposed to the influence of environmental factors, which carries the risk of

overexposure and consequent prematurely facial aging. This review summarizes the current

state of knowledge of the most common facial skin changes in the mature patient, including

pathogenesis of both intrinsic and extrinsic skin ageing, as well as clinical and histologic

features of skin ageing. Because the majority of facial skin changes in the elderly develop as

the consequence of UV radiation, these can be prevented by adequate photoprotection.

Keywords

ageing face; intrinsic ageing; photoageing; wrinkles; photoprotection

Introduction

Ageing is a dynamic and complex process encompassing progressive decreases in

biologic functions and in the organism's ability to tolerate metabolic stress with time. Both

genetic and environmental factors are involved in this process. The human face reflects the

first signs of ageing, including structural, functional, and aesthetic changes, accompanied with

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