New fat grafting procedures improve breast reconstruction

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(HealthDay) -- Two autologous fat grafting procedures, enhanced stromal vascular fraction (SVF) and platelet-rich plasma (PRP) fat grafting, maintain breast volume and three-dimensional contour better than the standard fat grafting procedure, according to a study published online April 13 in *Stem Cells Translational Medicine*.

Pietro Gentile, M.D., of the University of Rome Tor Vergata, and colleagues conducted a comparative translational study involving 23 women affected by <u>breast</u> soft tissue defects to compare the effects of two autologous fat grafting procedures in maintaining fat volume after

breast reconstruction surgery. SVF-enhanced autologous fat grafting (performed in 10 women) and fat grafting with PRP (performed in 13 <u>women</u>) were compared with the results achieved in a control group (10 patients) who were treated with a standard centrifuged fat grafting procedure.

The researchers found that, after one year, 63 and 69 percent maintenance of contour restoring and three-dimensional volume was seen in the SVF and PRP groups, respectively, compared with 39 percent in the control group.

"We conclude that engineered fat grafting based on the [addition] of SVF or PRP is a reliable alternative to breast implant based on some initial indications," the authors write. "Additional study is necessary to evaluate the efficacy of this method further."

More information: Stem Cells Trans Med, April 2012 sctm.2011-0065. doi: 10.5966/sctm.2011-0065

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