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Management of side effects of injectables in dermatology

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Introduction: Commonly used injectables in dermatology include fillers, Botox, intralesional steroids, 5 fluorouracil, platelet rich plasma, etc. They are generally considered safe. However, side effects may happen and hence one needs to be aware of such side effects, contraindications and precautions to be adopted while using injectables.

Aim: To make dermatologists aware about common side effects of injectables and to arrive at a consensus in prevention and management of these side effects.

Materials & Methods: Reports of different injectables' complications in medical literature were reviewed and based on the publications retrieved and the authors' extensive experience, recommendations for avoiding and managing complications are provided.

Result: Different injectables have widely varying properties, associated risks and injection requirements. All injectables have the potential to cause complications. The majority of adverse reactions are mild and transient, such as bruising and trauma-related edema. Serious adverse events are rare and most are avoidable with proper planning and techniques.

Conclusion: Many strategies exist to reduce the risks of complications of injectables. A good working knowledge of side effects profiles of each product is mandatory. Although unwanted reactions are rare when proper planning and injection technique is used, dermatologists should be aware that unforeseen adverse sequelae can always occur. For optimum outcomes, one should have a detailed understanding of anatomy of the area, individual characteristics of products; their indications, contraindications, benefits, drawbacks and ways to prevent potential complications. This spread of information is the need of the hour with the number of injectables increasing multifold in practice.

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