

HEALTH & MEDICINE

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION BY FLORIDA TODAY. PUBLISHED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2002

Platelet Gel Speeds Healing After Cosmetic Surgery

By **CAROL HANSEN**

Helen Johnson was interested in having facial and eyelid cosmetic surgery, but she was concerned about recovery and downtime after her surgery.

So, Mrs. Johnson, a 57-year-old Brevard native turned to Dr. Ross A. Clevens, a recognized national expert in the use of platelet gel to speed healing and minimize recovery.



DR. CLEVENS

After successful surgery performed by Dr. Clevens with the aid of platelet gel, Mrs. Johnson remarked, "I was able to go out to dinner with my husband and a few close friends one week after my facelift and I went back to work in

less than two weeks. Dr. Clevens and his staff were wonderful - they were so caring and pleasant."

Ross A. Clevens, M.D., F.A.C.S., with offices in Melbourne and Merritt Island (321-951-3223, www.drCLEVENS.com), is Brevard's only board-certified facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon who offers his patients the advantages of platelet gel. Dr. Clevens is currently the President-elect of the Florida Society of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

"Platelet gel takes advantage of nature's own remarkable healing powers to reduce recovery time," Dr. Clevens said. "We are

witnessing shortened downtime after facial cosmetic surgery by 25 to 40 percent.

"Platelets are the 'conductors' that lead the symphony of healing after surgery. Platelets are special cells present in the bloodstream that direct our bodies to heal and to repair themselves. Platelets aid in the formation of new blood vessels, tissue and skin and they also help guard against infection."

Dr. Clevens says that patients benefit from platelet gel in eyelid and facelift surgery, as well as nasal surgery and laser cosmetic procedures.

During surgery, under the direction of Dr. Clevens, platelets are quickly and simply separated from the patient's own blood and a gel is made. This unique process takes only minutes to perform by certified perfusionists and phlebotomists. Because only the patient's own blood is used, the procedure is said to be completely safe.

The platelets are concentrated into a special gel that Dr. Clevens applies at the time of facial, eyelid, nasal and laser surgery. Immediately upon application the gel goes to work, speeding healing and shortening downtime. This year alone, patients have benefited from platelet gel in over 250 procedures that Dr. Clevens has performed.

Recognized by his peers for his expertise in the use of platelet gel in laser and cosmetic surgery, Dr. Clevens has been invited to speak to other plastic and cosmetic surgeons in New Orleans, Ft. Lauderdale, Atlanta, Melbourne and New York at meetings of the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery (www.cosmeticsurgery.org),

American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons (www.aafprs.org), American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery and the Florida Platelet Gel Symposium.

Dr. Clevens has found that downtime after facial or nasal cosmetic surgery and laser surgery can be reduced by as much as 40 percent. With the use of platelet gel, many patients see less bruising, less swelling and experience less discomfort.

The most common procedures in which Dr. Clevens offers the benefits of platelet gel to his patients include facelift and forehead lift surgery, functional and cosmetic nasal procedures as well as eyelid and laser surgery.

Dr. Clevens may be contacted at (321) 951-3223 or info@drCLEVENS.com. Dr. Clevens is Director of the Center for Facial Cosmetic Surgery (www.drCLEVENS.com), an affiliate of OMNI Healthcare, with offices in Melbourne and Merritt Island.

A noted educator, author, lecturer and innovator in the field of facial plastic surgery, Dr. Clevens completed his undergraduate training at Yale University and medical school and internship at Harvard Medical School. He completed his residency in head and neck surgery and an advanced fellowship in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.