

AccuVein AV400 Proves Invaluable to Cosmetic Practices



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AccuVein AV400 Vein Visualizer

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AccuVein AV400 illuminates veins to improve the physician's familiarity of a patient's anatomy and increase procedure safety.

Unintentional injection of soft tissue filler into facial blood vessels can result in serious injury. With approximately 2 million dermal filler procedures performed annually in the U.S. alone, this can be a significant concern. To minimize this risk, the FDA recommends that clinicians make sure they are, “familiar with the anatomy at and around the site of injection, keeping in mind that blood vessel anatomy can vary among patients.”

To improve familiarity of a patient's anatomy many clinicians have begun to incorporate vein visualization into their procedures. The use of vein illumination can increase safety during injectable procedures and help physicians more easily follow the FDA's newly suggested guidelines for administering fillers in the soft tissue of the face. One such device, the AccuVein AV400 from AccuVein (Medford, N.Y.), provides a roadmap of the vasculature that is typically unseen, enabling injectors to avoid veins entirely or work around them.

According to Richard Buckley, M.D., a cosmetic surgeon at MilfordMD Cosmetic Dermatology Surgery & Laser Center in Milford, Pa., who recently added the AccuVein device into his cosmetic practice, “Being familiar with the facial anatomy is of utmost importance in any cosmetic surgery procedure. This simply allows us to be more vigilant and safe by providing a roadmap of the vasculature that we typically cannot see.”

The AccuVein device uses an invisible infrared laser to detect vessels and a visible red laser to project the vein pattern. These two laser beams focus on the same point on the body by using extremely fast, but tiny mirrors to scan the lasers back and forth. The hemoglobin in blood absorbs the near infrared light. To read the absorption of the laser, AccuVein uses advanced processing to ignore obstacles, such as fat and variation in skin coloration.

Another concern that vein visualization addresses is social downtime. “By minimizing bruising with the AccuVein, patients can go out and do things right after in-office, lunch-time procedures, such as neurotoxin and filler injections, without the tell-tale signs of bruising that give others a clue they've had something done,” said Dr. Buckley.

Vein illumination can also be used to locate veins in other types of cosmetic applications. For example, sclerotherapy procedures to eliminate varicose or spider vein clusters are aided by vein illumination. Vein visualization identifies the source or feeder veins, thereby helping to eliminate the root of the problem. In platelet-rich plasma procedures (PRP), patients will be more receptive to have their blood drawn knowing the clinician can see their vessels.

In Dr. Buckley's experience, “AccuVein is an easy way to help keep my patients happy and safe; it is a game changer in cosmetic surgery,” and these sentiments have been echoed by many other aesthetic physicians and cosmetic surgeons.