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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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