AQ Skin Solutions Introduces Growth Factor Induced Therapy

Before Tx

After two GFIT treatments using AQ Recovery Serum, Rejuvapen and AQ Active Serum

Photos courtesy of AQ Skin Solutions

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After two GFIT treatments with AQ Recovery Serum and AQ Active Serum

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Human blood is a specialized, vital fluid that travels through the circulatory system to support and maintain our body tissues by supplying oxygen and nutrients to the cells while also transporting metabolic waste. Accounting for 7% to 8% of human body weight, this mixture contains cellular elements such as erythrocytes (RBCs), leukocytes and platelets dispensed within a plasma liquid composed of water, growth factors, clotting factors, proteins, glucose, minerals, carbon dioxide and bodily wastes. Because of the differences in density, sediment rate and size, the components of blood can be separated and isolated via a double centrifugation technique, which separates the red blood cells from the plasma and sequentially isolates the platelet-poor plasma (PPP) from the platelet-rich plasma (PRP).

In the early 1990s, PRP was recognized as a breakthrough in the field of tissue engineering and cellular therapy for its biologic potential to stimulate bone and soft tissue healing. Since then, this autogenous preparation of concentrated platelets has made it to the forefront of aesthetic medicine due to the rise of affordable PRP kits and devices.

The appeal of PRP depends entirely on growth factor technology. Growth factors, otherwise known as cell signaling molecules, are naturally produced by the body and are critical for the regulation of cell activities and homeostasis. They act on cell membrane receptors using an internal cytoplasmic cascading signal sequence, which encourages natural gene expression. Their ability to easily penetrate skin and enhance the immune system response triggers secretion of other vital growth factors necessary to repair the skin. Products containing growth factors should stimulate a cooling sensation, minimize the risk of scarring, and signal re-epithelialization for better results and a quicker recovery period. Growth factors also help stimulate collagen production in connective tissue cells, which will result in better, long lasting benefits.

While PRP exhibits clinical potential within the field of medicine, it remains limited and controversial. For example, utilizing PRP for skin rejuvenation has actually proven to yield inferior results in comparison to a simpler growth factor application therapy. The danger of PRP lies in the inconsistency of human blood. The contents of human blood vary day by day, which makes results unpredictable. Even though the blood is autogenous, there is still a possibility of contamination, especially if the blood is not being tested for infections.

With the limitations of PRP, AQ Skin Solutions Inc. (Irvine, Calif.) has recently developed a new patented growth factor technology, which so far has passed and exceeded the results we can achieve from PRP. It has shown great results utilizing growth factors without the need for patients' blood or kits and centrifuges.

This technology differs from PRP in two main aspects: first, it yields more concentrated growth factors. Second, it allows the production of specialized combinations of growth factors thus making them more targeted to specific indications, such as promoting repair or enhancing hair growth.

AQ Skin Solutions now refers to their treatment as Growth Factor Induced Therapy® (GFIT), which utilizes AQ growth factors in therapy at the physician's office. GFIT has been proven to be safer due to the selectivity of growth factors and its preservation at the appropriate combination within the formulation. It requires no additional equipment while reportedly supplying the highest concentration of growth factors on the market. GFIT is less expensive, less painful and produces consistent results. It is essential for physicians to remain educated on the possibilities of advancing their practice and bettering their results with proper delivery of the correct concentration and combination of growth factors and know they are not limited to PRP.