

face

# no scar facelift with

According to Sydney cosmetic surgeon **Dr Longin Zurek** the latest advance in cosmetic facial surgery involves facelifting without incision. Francis Herron reports.

One of the cutting edge advances in cosmetic surgery in recent years is facelifting without incision. Although the concept of supporting the face with tiny gold wires has been around for some 20 years, it was Moscow cosmetic surgeon Dr M Sulamanidze who developed a technique of facelifting using threads with 'cogs' that he patented internationally in 1999 as Aptos (anti-ptosis).

Dr Zurek has been intrigued by the concept since it was

first presented at international meetings. As Aptos threads were not approved for use in Australia, he developed a technique of producing self-anchoring filaments from commonly used, biocompatible suture material (Prolene). He calls his device AGE (Anti-Gravity/Elevation) Filaments, trademarked in 2002. The AGE Filaments are custom-made by Dr Zurek in terms of length and cog design (see figure 1).

## AGE Filaments

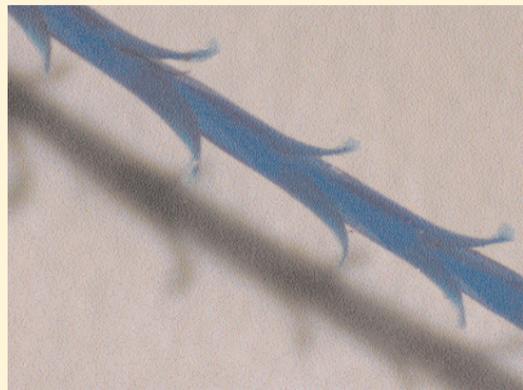


FIGURE 1 Microscopic photograph of actual AGE Filament

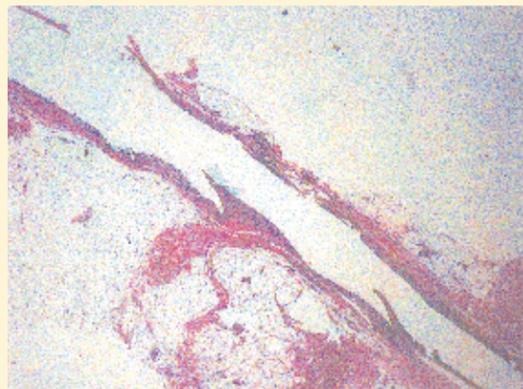


FIGURE 2 Fibrosis formed around AGE Filament six months after implantation

### How do AGE Filaments work?

AGE Filaments are implanted underneath the skin at different depths using a special long needle. The barbs of the threads anchor themselves in the soft tissue, achieving elevation and restoration of the youthful volume of the face. It is not just the suture material but the natural body reaction (fibrosis) which forms an envelope around the filament, resulting in internal firm support of the soft tissue. As the density of the 'cogs', or 'barbs', on the AGE Filaments is higher than on the commercial Aptos material, Dr Zurek expects greater levels of fibrosis along the device, making it more effective.

### Are they effective?

According to Dr Zurek the effectiveness (fibrosis) of AGE Filaments has been scientifically demonstrated by microscopic examination of a sample obtained from a patient who decided to undergo facelift due to excess skin six months after insertion of the AGE Filaments (see figure 2).

To date Dr Zurek has performed over 500 cases of facelifting with AGE Filaments. Recently, he conducted a scientific survey of 100 consecutive cases of AGE Filament facelifting. The study helped him to improve patient selection as well as refine his technique. This survey was presented at cosmetic surgery conferences in Australia and overseas.

AGE Filaments can be used to elevate the outer brow, mid-face, lower-face and neck (see case study). AGE Filaments are suitable to elevate the outer brow in practically all cases. However, patients with severe excess facial skin are not optimal candidates and may wish to

# AGEfilaments

## case study



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE Patient in her 50s



Eight months AFTER full-face AGE Filament lift and upper blepharoplasty performed by Dr Zurek