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## PLASTIC SURGERY NEWS

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American Society of Plastic Surgeons, Inc.

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The New York Times investigated the use of Restylane in the U.S. in its front page story of the Feb. 16 “Style” section. The newspaper called 61 plastic surgeon and dermatologist offices in Manhattan and was told by 11 receptionists that the office administers Restylane. “I’d say there are about 50 [dermatologists using Restylane], and you may be able to find them, but they won’t want to be found,” says Michael Kane, MD, New York. “They [patients] ask about Restylane every week,” reported Rod Rohrich, MD, Dallas. “There is a big, big demand for it.” Michelle Copeland, MD, New York agreed. “They hear one of their friends say they tried it and say, ‘Hey, she looks good.’ It is just another thing we have in our armamentarium. The fact that it is non-animal is attractive, and it seems more natural and looks really nicely. Yet if we administer it, we open ourselves up to malpractice.” Trevor Born, MD, Toronto, who administers Restylane at his practice in Canada, where the drug is approved, told the newspaper that Restylane is not entirely free of complications. “There have been reactions, such as patients who develop draining cysts,

but in the 3,000 I have treated, I had one patient who had some redness for about three weeks and that was it,” said Dr. Born. Steven Teitelbaum, MD, Santa Monica, Calif., added that Restylane could bring in a fast income, which makes it attractive to doctors. “Look, dermatologists are not making a living doing mole check because the insurance company pays them \$13.75 an hour for each one. Restylane is an immediate cash infusion for the doctor.”

### Ready for Restylane

“I think it’s prudent that we wait until there is FDA approval [of Restylane], so that we have as much knowledge as to the benefits, the side effects and really what the appropriate indications are,” Loren Schechter, MD, Skokie, Ill. Told Chicago’s ABC-TV affiliate on Feb. 12. The news segment aired interviews of patients who have found ways to have Restylane injections in the United States. Paul Lorenc, MD, New York, who has performed clinical trials on Restylane for the FDA, was asked about the benefits of Restylane. “For one, no skin test is needed – and it’s six times better than the other [collagen],” said Dr. Lorenc.