



“What we do is try to get patients back to work as soon as possible,” says plastic surgeon Thomas Romo III.

his namesake collection: Anti-Irritant Cleanser is free of any potentially sensitizing ingredients, while Advanced Eye Crème #2 contains amica. Susan Ciminelli of the Susan Ciminelli Day Spa in New York favors the essential oils and marine ingredients in her own skin-care collection. “They are exceptional for healing the skin and reducing pain,” says Ciminelli. Similarly, the Enessa Wellness Spa in Los Angeles touts its Facial Nourishment Geranium Oil for its gentle moisturization.

Lorenz credits his patients’ quick healing time to his use of the Karim Herzog skin-care line of oxygen-based products. The collection’s founder, scientist Paul Herzog, was honored by the Nobel Institute for developing the artificial respirator and, together with his wife, Karin, translated his findings into an at-home collection. While some doctors contend that it’s impossible to bottle oxygen in a cream, Lorenz says he’s able to measure the increased oxygen levels on skin treated with the product. “We can’t afford to have patients in hyperbaric chambers,” he says with a laugh. “Oxygen is very beneficial for healing. It dilates the blood vessels and delivers more nutrients to the incision.”

The latest buzz in healing the skin after surgery comes from a technique that surgeons actually employ during the facelift. Made with donated blood plasma, fibrin glue, an adhesive, is concocted in the operating room and sprayed onto the flap of skin. Its main function is to seal off any leaky blood vessels that might remain open, a job that is typically done with the use of drains and compressive bandages. Because fibrin glue is fairly new to the cosmetic surgery arena, very few surgeons have yet to embrace it.

Newer still is the Autologous Platelet Gel, a technology that uses the patient’s own blood in order to create an adhesive that has the advantages of the fibrin glue, plus another major one.

“Autologous Platelet Gel is rich in bioactive proteins and growth factors,” says Manhattan plastic surgeon Thomas Romo III, one of the few cosmetic surgeons currently using the Platelet Gel. “Because of this, many fantastic things happen: Collagen-producing fibroblasts start to grow, making the wound heal a lot faster, and red blood cells are decreased, making for less bruising.”

...and red blood cells are decreased, making for less bruising. But since the world is far from perfect,