

# Sanity in tune with vanity

## Putting the safety & quality of patient care first in cosmetic dermatology

The Erasmus Medical Center (MC) located in Rotterdam, Netherlands, is a university medical centre focused on three core values: patient care, research and education. Its Dermatology Department prides itself on providing the highest standard of patient care for a wide range of skin conditions and disorders. It also offers cosmetic dermatology procedures such as botox and fillers, runs a filler complication clinic for referred patients, and offers access to Cutaneous, a company that deploys a teaching programme.

## Benefits of ultrasound in needle-guided aesthetic medicine

Ultrasound is used for every cosmetic dermatology procedure at Erasmus MC to see anatomy under the skin, to guide needle-based treatments and monitor product placement for accuracy and quality.



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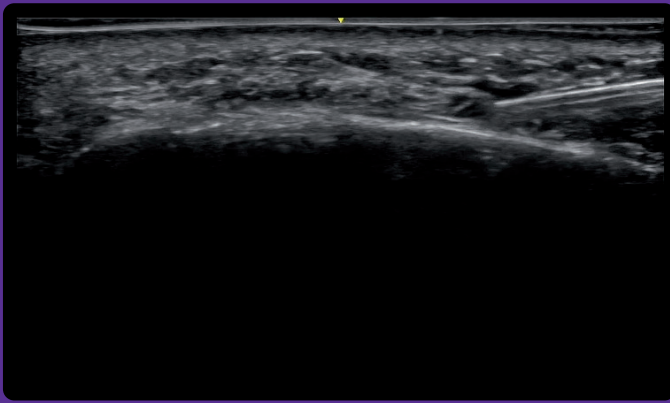


### Dr Peter Velthuis,

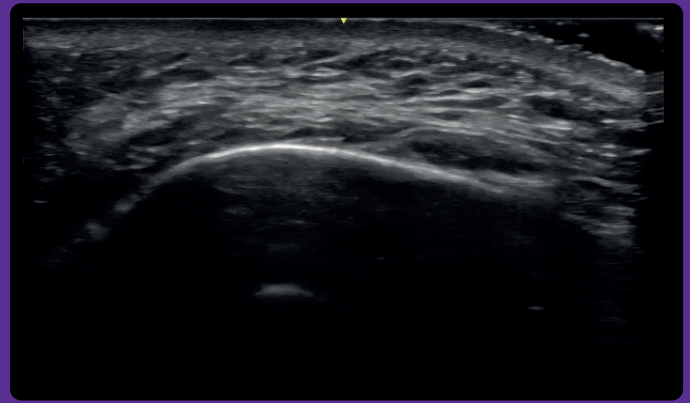
Head of Cosmetic Dermatology Section at Erasmus MC and President Elect of The European Society for Cosmetic & Aesthetic Dermatology (ESCAD) states,

*“We use ultrasound on every patient to see if we can safely use fillers in specific areas that we’re targeting, and also afterwards to see where the product went to ensure we have placed it correctly. Safety is one aspect for ultrasound use, but the other is quality control. We’re delivering material on top of the bone - by seeing where it has been placed using ultrasound makes us constantly focus on improving placement. In my opinion as a doctor, you should always try and be as safe as possible and know about the tissues you are interfering with.”*

In a recent paper, ‘**Fillers and Vessels: The Story of Arterial Obstruction after Cosmetic Treatment**’, Dr Velthuis highlights the rise in popularity of facial cosmetic treatments with subcutaneous fillers and sets out the seriousness of complications such as intravascular injections. In particular, he explains that when injected in arteries, fillers can block blood flow and lead to skin necrosis or even loss of vision if the material occludes the Central Retinal Artery. To prevent and detect complications, ultrasound is recommended.



Needle entering area



Evaluating placement of filler

## Ultrasound illuminates what is under the skin

*“Our research shows that between 2016 to 2019 there was a 17% increase in filler use in the Netherlands, which is approximately a 6% increase year-on-year,”* continues Dr Velthuis.

*“Where 20 years ago, the mean age of a patient seeking anti-ageing aesthetic medicine procedures was 45, today it is much younger, with young females around the age of 21 coming through the door for cosmetic enhancements.”*

*“Using ultrasound may add a little time to a treatment appointment, which many practitioners fear, but with solid training and practise, the benefits far outweigh the risks. Indeed, many patients in the Netherlands call up to ask if a clinic is using ultrasound as it gives them peace of mind.”*

*“My experience of the GE HealthCare Venue Go™ Ultrasound is that it is very versatile for before, during and after treatments. We have two probes with it, the L4-20t-RS XDclear™ light-weight button probe and a smaller one, the L10-22-RS. As the face is not a flat surface, like many other parts of the body, it is difficult to only use wider probes as you lose part of the image. When working close to the eyes or nose I opt for the smaller probe which works brilliantly to give the images needed.”*

#### Sources:

Peter Velthuis, MD, PhD; Leonie W. Schelke, MD, PhD. Fillers and Vessels: The Story of Arterial Obstruction after Cosmetic Treatment. HSOA Journal of Angiology & Vascular Surgery, J Angil Vasc Surg 2021, 6: 069 DOI: 10.24966/AVS-7397/100069, <https://www.drvelthuis.nl/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/fillers-and-vessels-the-story-of-arterial-obstruction-after-cosmetic-treatment.pdf>

Tom S. Decates, Peter Velthuis, Danial Zarringam, Luca Bruin, Rutger H. Schepers, Berend van der Lei. Upward trend in number of injectable treatments in the Netherlands 2016-2019. J Cosmet Dermatol. 2021 Sep;20(9):3049-3051. doi: 10.1111/jocd.14339. Epub 2021 Jul 19. PMID: 34403196; PMCID: PMC8457223.

*“The small, pocket-sized Vscan Air™ also gives superb images wirelessly to a mobile phone or tablet and is very small for portability if you need to be in different locations or rooms. It is inexpensive and an ideal tool for practitioners looking to start upgrading their patient safety measures for a quick look under the skin before commencing procedures,”* Dr Velthuis concludes.

L4-20t-RS XDclear



L10-22-RS

