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Aptos thread lifting – Methods of twenty-year history: Past, present and future

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Thread lifting methods are described in surgical practice since the fifties. Doctors tried to apply different suture surgical material during surgical lifting for facilitating their work and improving aesthetic results. Unfortunately, no known techniques have taken roots in surgeon's practice till nineties. In 1996, Georgian plastic surgeon and scientist Marlen A Sulamanidze patented and offered application of threads with barbs for lifting and soft tissues shifting for face and body. Sulamanidze offered to name threads with barbs Antiptosis, in abbreviated form Aptos. Long since, in 2001, there were appeared first Aptos threads manufactured in Italy (in common with Assut Europe company), in USA (in common with KMI Inc.), in Russia (by Aptos Ltd.) and in Singapore (Aptos Singapore). Threads received CE-mark, registration certificate in Russia, different certificates in Asian countries and FDA approval for product named Aptos Feather Lift in 2004 in USA. First boom for thread lifting happened in the middle of 2000s in Europe. In spite of different patents having by Dr. Sulamanidze there has been multiple analogues for Aptos threads presented in the market. At that point in time, thread lifting method was too new; doctors did not receive enough information about thread application technique which resulted in large number of complications and consequently negative attitude towards idea itself. Nevertheless, Aptos methods and products have been developed and presented absolutely new, unique, proven by year's products during the second positive wave in the market in 2012. Now, Aptos is presenting 30 different names of the products manufactured from polylactic and caprolac acids and more than 50 different methods for aesthetic problems, solution of soft tissue ptosis of face and body. In spite of multiplicity of methods and products present in the market today, Aptos is leader in thread lifting as it has 20-years of experience in this area. Aptos offers not only the threads, but also methods, approaches to solve different aesthetic problems, training and professional development for specialists, free program in complication cases and the only one of its kind program of free asymmetry correction in patients with facial nerve paresis by thread lifting. Aptos is unique also by the fact that method inventors, owners and the directors of the company are practicing doctors (Plastic Surgeons and Dermatologists) from one family, Sulamanidze family. For them Aptos is considered not as method of earning the money, but as a real child creation born and growing up in their hands. There is no aim of this presentation to promote Aptos methods. The work is directed to present history of thread lifting, description of this direction introduction in aesthetic medicine and what expectations are expected in the future.

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