Despite swelling, the initial pain and discomfort are minimal. The procedure is designed to create a lasting effect with minimal downtime. The patient notes that the results are impressive:

"I was skeptical at first, but the lifting effect has been remarkable. It gives me a more youthful appearance without the need for invasive surgery."

Dr. Edwin Williams, a Board-Certified Dermatologist and Plastic Surgeon, explains that the procedure is called "Threadlift" and involves inserting fine, absorbable threads into the skin to lift and contour facial features. The threads are slowly absorbed by the body, allowing for gradual improvement.

"Threadlift is particularly advantageous for those seeking a more natural look, as it harnesses the body's natural collagen production to achieve lift and tone. It's less intense than traditional facelifts and carries a lower risk profile."

The patient's satisfaction is further enhanced by the minimal downtime required. "I was able to return to work a few days after the procedure, which was a major plus for me as a busy professional."

The Threadlift procedure is now offered by many dermatologists and plastic surgeons, providing a non-invasive alternative to traditional facelifts. As technology advances, such procedures continue to evolve, offering patients more options for achieving their desired look with minimal inconvenience.
BARBARA FIERCE

The Future to Face
She's Ready

By ELVIA NEST

The recovery process

Samantha Black is shown before surgery, left, and again following the 'breast Procedures'. 'Looks worse' have re-

n

The exterior is smoothed with a laser, and the new tissue is shaped with a machine, and then "tucked" to fit perfectly.

The result is a natural-looking "breast" that is "more youthful", and a "new sense of self".

But these aren't new ideas.

"The concept is from a previous time," says a surgeon who performed the procedure.

"It's a new way of doing things," he adds, "but the principles are the same."
Face: Threadlift recovery can take time

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return to regular activities the same day, most cosmetic surgeons, including Williams, agree the reality is that threadlifts take a few weeks from which to fully recover.

Sometimes longer.

Buck can attest to that.

Once home, the Scotia resident headed for her favorite recliner but became perturbed a short time later by the sudden onset of shooting pains throughout her face. They intensified to the point of being excruciating.

"I had to call [Williams'] office," she recalled. "I was in so much pain I was crying... I had to go back so they could look at me and make sure there wasn't anything unusual causing the pain."

After Buck was briefly stripped of her fresh bandages, it was determined nothing out of the ordinary was causing her discomfort, and a stronger pain prescription combined with frequent ice-packing, helped get her through the next couple of days.

The pain gradually abated, though Buck said there was considerable numbness as well as an occasional "jab."

When her head wrap was permanently removed four days later, Buck saw significant bruising and some mild bleeding. There were also hard "nubbies" — or swollen areas that felt like knots — around her jaw and chin area.

"I tried not to have a lot of expectations, said the 56-year-old Scotia resident. "I knew there would be a lot of bruising — so I wasn't shocked by what I saw."

Back, in fact, was delighted by what she didn't see: Her small jowls were gone and the skin beneath her chin was smoothed.

She was also happy with the subtlety of the results. There was no pop-eyed, taut-skinned appearance — the kind commonly associated with surgical face-lifts, during which excess skin is removed rather than merely lifted.

To help speed healing of her bruises, Williams used a special laser.

A good 50 zaps did the trick.

"It was amazing how quickly that healed it," Buck said.

During weeks of routine follow-up visits, Buck benefited from manual massage at the thread sites to "work out" a couple of stubborn swollen areas around her neck and jaw, and any numbness she was feeling — most notably in the area of her chin — all but disappeared. She was left with what both she and Williams considered a "nice result."

THE OUTLOOK

Though the threadlift procedure is so new that organizations such as the American Society of Plastic Surgeons and the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery are not yet tracking the number of threadlift patients, more plastic, cosmetic and dermatologic surgeons are reporting patients asking for the procedure.

It just may be the facelift of the future.

At least, Buck considers it so. In fact, she said she would have no reservations about doing it all over again.

"Looks-wise, I have regained a good five, six or seven years of my life," Buck said, more than a month after her procedure.

Even three months post-surgery, she sounds nothing short of tickled.

"I've got a turtleneck on today, and I see myself in the sideways mirror. I've actually got a damn chin, and I don't have jowls hanging down. It's such a strange feeling to see such a change," she said recently.

She will continue to follow up with Williams' office for a full 12 months to ensure proper healing and monitoring of her results.

Buck likened the success of the procedure to being cured of terrible acne.

"Acne can make you so vulnerable. You don't even want to leave the house some days. Now, it's as if those zits have been taken away. It's one less thing to think about when I look in the mirror."

Reach Gazette reporter Elysia Nest at 395-3180.