

Star's beauty secret revealed

Oxygen therapy keeps Madonna looking young

By Charity Apple / Times-News
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Prior to every concert, Madonna makes sure she looks glamorous for her legion of fans. Besides a team of makeup artists and costume designers, Madonna turns to Intraceutical skin infusions, an oxygen therapy that hydrates skin to create a glowing, more youthful appearance.

Michelle Peck, Madonna's oxygen therapist, gives her a treatment prior to every show. The 49-year-old pop diva is so enamored with the noninvasive, natural treatment by Intraceuticals 2 that she has three of the \$7,000 oxygen machines, one in each of her homes in Los Angeles, New York and England, according to information provided by Intraceuticals 2.

The Intraceutical infusion therapies began in Australia and were originally developed to help cancer patients. After years of extensive research, bio-chemists with Intraceuticals developed a serum (with vitamins A, C, E, Japanese green tea and aloe vera) that when combined with therapeutic-grade hyperbaric oxygen, can smooth fine lines and wrinkles.

"It can hydrate deeper layers of the skin, treating it from the inside out," Jim Wooten, owner of Stoney Creek Spa & Skin Care Center, wrote in a letter to the Times-News.

Wooten observed a procedure in New York and thought it would be an excellent addition to the Stoney Creek Spa & Skin Care Center, 954-B Golf House Road West, Whitsett. The skin care center is in partnership with Dr. Louie Patseavouras, a plastic surgeon in Greensboro.

The treatment is available in more than 1,000 clinics in Australia and the United States, but Stoney Creek is the only clinic in North Carolina currently offering Intraceuticals infusions. Wooten said the skin care center began offering the service during the last few weeks of December. Treatments last an hour and cost \$150. Three different treatments are available:

Rejuvenation infusion — This treatment firms and tightens skin and improves the skin tone, resulting in an instant and visible face-lift.

Opulence infusion — Lightens dark spots and is good for acne, rosacea and reduces broken capillaries.

Atoxelene anti-wrinkle infusion — Wooten referred to this as "a safe and effective alternative to Botox." It relaxes the dermis and smoothes the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles, especially the forehead and around the eyes. It costs \$75 and can be added on to the other two infusions, Wooten added.

"Treatments are perfect for special events such as graduations, weddings or prior to being photographed or filmed," Wooten said.

Celebrities, like Madonna and Gwyneth Paltrow, have the treatments moments prior to red-carpet events.

"You can go directly from the infusion treatments to applying makeup," said Mary Shaver, a licensed medical esthetician at Stoney Creek Spa & Skin Care Center. Shaver said she is already booked with appointments for infusion treatments.

"There are no contraindications associated with this treatment. Anyone can use it," Shaver said. "It absolutely makes you look younger."

For more information, call Stoney Creek Spa & Skin Care Center at (336) 449-1155



Sam Roberts / Times-News
Mary Shaver, a licensed medical esthetician at Stoney Creek Spa & Skin Care Center, uses the rejuvenation infusion therapy on Accent editor/Teens & 20s adviser Charity Apple recently.