

For the last few years, the U.S. has been experiencing an increasing frequency of drug shortages, which have caused a number of difficulties for clinicians and patients. Medication shortages are caused by many factors, including difficulties in acquiring raw materials, manufacturing problems, regulatory issues, and natural disasters. Shortages can adversely affect patient care when alternative treatments are substituted for safe and effective therapies. Shortages can also compromise or delay medical procedures; or may cause medication errors and can significantly burden health care providers' finances and personnel.

As of November 25, 2017, the FDA has indicated the following medications applicable to a plastic surgery practice are in short supply:

- Epinephrine Injection, 0.1 mg/mL Currently in Shortage
- Epinephrine Injection, 1 mg/mL Resolved
- Lidocaine Hydrochloride (Xylocaine) Injection Currently in Shortage
- Lidocaine Hydrochloride (Xylocaine) Injection with Epinephrine Currently in Shortage
- Sodium Bicarbonate Injection, USP Currently in Shortage
- Sodium Chloride 0.9% Injection Bags Currently in Shortage
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For additional information, see: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drugsafety/drugshortages/>

ASPS will continue to monitor the situation and provide monthly updates on medication shortages that may impact plastic surgeons.