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WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT INJECTABLE FILLERS

Why Are Fillers Used?

- As we age, sun damage, genetics, gravity, diseases (e.g. acne) and even daily expression can cause lines, wrinkles, hollowing and depressed acne scars. These changes alter the way we look and present ourselves to the world. Our faces are essentially an organ of communication. We may be feeling one set of emotions, yet our faces may communicate another. While some lines can be erased by lasers, and sagging can be reduced by face and neck lifts, one of the most common and easy methods to diminish lines is through the use of fillers and BOTOX® Cosmetic.
- There are a vast array of fillers. Some are better for enhancing lips, others are better for cheek hollowing. Some last just a few months; others may last for more than a year. Some are permanent. Most do not require allergy testing.
- Our philosophy is to match the filler to the needs and concerns of the patient. This may require multiple sessions and multiple fillers. Generally, we do not advocate permanent fillers because as the face ages, a permanent filler may not adjust to the new lines and repositioning of old ones.

Are there any restrictions prior to treatment?

- These procedures may cause bruising and/or swelling. If possible, please stop all aspirin and/or aspirin products, ibuprofen, fish oil, or Vitamin E products 10-14 days prior to injection. No alcohol 24 hours pre or post- procedure. You can NOT be pregnant or breastfeeding.

Following is a list of common fillers and what they are best used for:

1. Restylane®/Perlane®/JUVÉDERM® Injectable Gel

These products are a form of hyaluronic acid. They vary in concentration and size of molecule. These fillers enhance your natural looks by restoring your skin's volume, creating softness and smoothing away the appearance of lines. Products generally last six to twelve months but may be less in mobile areas of the face such as the lips. No skin testing is needed.

Optimal use: It is very versatile and can be used for lip enhancement, reduction of smile and marionette lines, scars, earlobes, as well as under the eyes and vertical creases in the glabella (lower forehead).

2. RADIESSE®

This product is made of calcium hydroxylapatite. With its patented microsphere technology it starts to stimulate your body to produce new collagen and encouraging collagen to grow around the injection area. RADIESSE® actually helps your body naturally create its own younger look. RADIESSE® generally lasts nine to twelve months. Overtime, it degrades naturally and is safely metabolized by the body. No skin testing is needed.

Optimal use: Smile lines, marionette lines and cheek bone augmentation.

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3. Sculptra® Aesthetic

This product is known as the liquid face lift. Sculptra® aesthetics is an injectable solution that restores and corrects the signs of facial fat loss by replacing volume. Sculptra® aesthetics is a synthetic injectable material known as “poly-L-lactic acid.” Poly-L-lactic acid is biocompatible (a material that does not harm the body) and biodegradable (able to be broken down by the body). It is not made from human or animal sources and does not require a skin test. For most people, it requires 3 sessions of injections done six weeks apart to see the full effect. During your first treatment, it may seem that Sculptra® aesthetics worked immediately because of the swelling from the injections and water used to dilute the product. In a few days the swelling goes down and you may look as you did before the treatment. Results last up to two years.

***ADVERSE EFFECTS:** With all of these products there is a risk of adverse effects, though fortunately they are uncommon. These include allergic reactions, bruising, bleeding, infection, swelling, inflammatory reactions resulting in nodule formation, cold sores, blisters, scar formation, numbness, and migration.

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