



Fact Sheet

Skin fillers (Temporary & Permanent)

What are skin fillers?

Skin fillers are used in a procedure known as soft tissue augmentation. These materials are implanted into tissue to give a fuller look and to reduce depressions and scars. They may be temporary or permanent. The most popular temporary filler is derived from bovine collagen, and considered the gold standard of injectable fillers. Zyderm I is used for fine lines, e.g. crow's feet, Zyderm II for deeper lines and wrinkles and Zyplast for much deeper lines and for the lip border. Skin testing is performed before use to detect allergic reactions.

The same company producing Zyderm have introduced Hyaluronic acid products: Hylaform and Restylane, the last being derived from a non-animal source. Hylaform and Restylane are particularly useful for enhancing lip volume. Temporary fillers are slowly absorbed into the body and the effect wears off. If a good correction is obtained with a temporary filler, the use of a permanent filler could be considered.

Permanent fillers contain non-absorbable materials so the effect is long lasting. Dermalive is a non-animal source of hyaluronic acid combined with acrylic hydrogel fragments that don't absorb. It is used for deeper lines and wrinkles, lip augmentation and plumping out acne scars.

Artecoll is derived from bovine collagen and has similar uses to Dermalive. As with Zyderm, skin testing must be performed before use.

How does the treatment work?

The filler is injected directly into the area where enhancement is required. Some people prefer to use EMLA cream (a local anaesthetic cream) or have an anaesthetic injection prior to the treatment to make the procedure more comfortable.

Is this treatment safe?

3% of patients develop a skin reaction to bovine collagen on testing and it is inadvisable to use this material on such patients. Even despite a negative test, redness and swelling can persist for up to about 4 months in 1 in 200 patients. Rarely, (1 in 1,000) patients develop a flare up of a cold sore or infection in the treatment site.

Allergic reactions with Restylane are much rarer but can occur. Redness and swelling can persist for about 2 weeks in 1 in 2,000 patients. More persisting reactions are extremely rare occurring in less than 1 in 25,000 treatments.

What will I see after the treatment?

After treatment there is usually some swelling, redness, pain, itching and tenderness which settles spontaneously. The effects of the injection need to settle so it is best to have a few quiet days after treatment, with minimised movement of the treated area. Temporary fillers last about 6-12 months and if desired, follow-up treatment can be performed.

For any further information please call us on our Freephone number – 0800 028 7222