

SOFT TISSUE / DERMAL FILLERS

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As we age there is a reduction of our dermal collagen which causes the elastic framework of our skin to loosen and therefore we see an increase of lines and wrinkles in our skin. We would all like to achieve the soft, plumpness of our youthful skin. Dermal fillers are safe and with augmentation of the soft tissue we can achieve a smoother more relaxed appearance.

Where are soft tissue fillers commonly used?

Dermal fillers are injected just beneath the skin's surface to fill out unwanted lines and creases. Our appearance is enhanced by filling in facial creases, including smile lines, nasolabial folds, forehead lines and marionette lines. These fillers are also used to enhance and beautify the lips by increasing their fullness and changing an uneven lip line. Many different products are used at the McLean Clinic as dermal fillers.

What are some of these products?

Hyaluronic acid products – **Restylane, Perlane, and Juvederm**

Hyaluronic acid is a natural product of the body and is found in the eyes, joints and skin. Dermal fillers use a synthetic hyaluronic acid in the form of a gel. The size of the gel particles varies with the different products and desired results. The gel binds with water to produce fullness.

Hyaluronic acid is typically used to increase lip fullness and to minimize facial lines. It can also enhance facial contours, including the cheeks and chin, as well as improve the smoothness of deep facial lines.

Collagen products – **Zyderm and Zyplast**

Zyderm and Zyplast are made from highly purified bovine collagen. A skin test is required 4 weeks before treatment to see if you are a suitable candidate. Since the advent of hyaluronic acid, collagen is not as widely used but is still a safe and effective choice for smoothing lines, wrinkles, scars and defining lip border.

How long will dermal fillers last?

The fillers Restylane, Perlane, Juvederm and Collagen – are temporary and have effects that last many months.

The duration of the effect is variable and is influenced by age, tissue structure of your skin, lifestyle and muscle activity.

Effectiveness of dermal fillers has been shown to increase if there are multiple treatments. The filler particle is absorbed very slowly by the body. As it dissolves it is replaced by water, making it a smooth and almost unnoticeable transition as the body returns to the pre-treatment state.

What is a typical patient response?

Injections are very well tolerated. Some patients require a local anesthetic before the injection of these products, however, this is easily performed and provides excellent comfort.

Are there any side effects?

The most common side effects are redness and swelling and will tend to last only a few days. Although less common, bruising can occur but can be covered with makeup.

What longer lasting dermal fillers are available?

Radiesse and Artesense are all longer lasting products. It is advisable to try one of the temporary products before going on to the longer lasting ones. **Radiesse** is made of calcium-based microspheres suspended in a natural gel and has been shown to last 12 months and longer. It is most often used in the smile lines and nasolabial folds.

Artesense (previously known as Artecoll), consists of microspheres suspended in collagen. Before using this product a small test dose is injected in the arm to make sure there are no allergies to collagen.

Can anyone have dermal fillers?

A consultation is necessary prior to injections of any product. Your medical history will be discussed and we will determine if you are a good candidate for dermal fillers. You should not have these types of injections if you have an autoimmune disease, are pregnant or breastfeeding or have any infectious skin problems.