



Pleasingly Plumped

The latest furrow fixers marshal the skin's own moisture

Lasers...chemical peels... collagen shots... Botox. In the '90s, speedy face fixing concentrated on smoothing the skin's surface. But today, a new generation of wrinkle fillers goes deeper, plumping from within. Restylane and Hylaform, transparent gel-injectables, promise to replicate the fullness of a youthful complexion. Their chief use is minimizing furrows and deep wrinkles, not removing jowls or tightening sagging skin. Women from their 30s to 80s are trying them, even though full treatments start at around \$400, and it's too soon to know long-term results.

Both Restylane and Hylaform received FDA approval within the past year for use on moderate to severe wrinkles and folds, such as the nasolabial fold (from the nose to the corners of the mouth). Doctors agree that's the area where these filler materials work best, though they're also suitable—and being used off-label—for marionette lines (which run from the cor-

ners of the mouth down to the jawline), deep frown lines, the lips, the chin, the tip of the nose, and acne scars.

Unlike collagen injections, which build a latticelike structure in the skin, Restylane and Hylaform add volume by drawing moisture into the area and locking it in. Both are composed of hyaluronic acid, which skin naturally contains. Our own supply diminishes with age, but when it is restored via injections, skin seems to fill out from the inside. Allergy testing isn't required, and Restylane and Hylaform last longer than collagen injections (6 months on

Do the new line erasers "fill 'em" their promise?



beauty

average, versus collagen's 3 to 4 months). Repeat doses of either will last up to 8 months, says Trevor Born, MD, a clinical lecturer in cosmetic plastic surgery at the University of Toronto.

Drawbacks? Neither Restylane nor Hylaform contains the local anesthetic that is found in collagen shots, so getting an injection can be a bit uncomfortable. (Antidote: an anesthetic cream or

fessor of dermatology at New York University School of Medicine, considers it more suited to augmenting the lips. Likewise, some doctors regard Restylane as the sturdier of the two, and prefer using it in the larger expanse of the nasolabial fold. But the jury is still out on which of the two injectables will prove more durable with repeated use.

Many doctors find that Restylane and Hylaform perform best when layered or mixed with other fillers and/or with Botox. Artful layering of these injectables

Yes, a solo treatment before your high school reunion can definitely—though temporarily—do the trick



a nerve block to numb the area.) They can also cause more swelling than collagen; it could take 1 to 3 days to recover from both the swelling and bruising.

The two new fillers are very similar in structure, but there are differences. Restylane is lab-made, through bacterial fermentation. Hylaform is extracted from rooster combs. Rating Hylaform softer, more pliable, and less likely to cause postinjection swelling. Ellen C. Gendler, MD, a clinical associate pro-

"may defer a face-lift for many, many years," says Marsha Gordon, MD, an associate clinical professor of dermatology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Finally, the cost and a note of caution: Treatment for both nasolabial folds or the upper or lower lips runs anywhere from \$400 to \$1,500. Hylaform is about half the price of Restylane, but according to Born, patients need more Hylaform than they do Restylane to achieve the same effect. Either option becomes expensive over time—up to several thousand dollars a year for those who get repeat injections. But yes, a solo treatment about 1 week before your high school reunion (to allow swelling and bruising to subside) can definitely—though temporarily—take years off your face. —Linda Dyett



ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

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