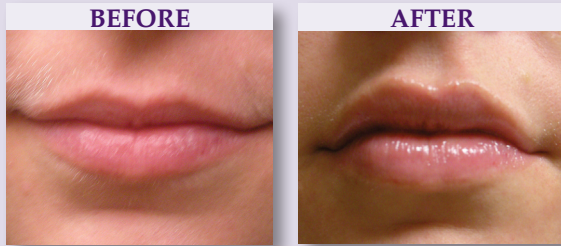




DERMACARE™
Laser & Skin Care Clinics®
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The Most Trusted Name in Skin Care™



DERMAL FILLERS: ARE THEY RIGHT FOR ME?

By Sidney B. Smith, MD, FAAD

Everyone wants to look their best, but the simple question is how? TV and magazines tell of numerous cosmetic procedures that 'work miracles'. It can be very confusing. How is one expected to know exactly which procedure or product is right for you?

Dermal fillers can be an excellent option for obtaining a natural rejuvenated and smoother look. The procedures are safe and patients can expect minimal to no downtime. It almost sounds too good to be true.

Fillers are substances that are injected into the skin to replace lost volume or to give added volume to improve one's looks. They can reduce and sometimes even eliminate fine lines, wrinkles, deep folds, and scars. Additionally they can be used for volumizing and facial contouring such as plumping lips, filling in hollow cheeks, restoring cheek bone definition, and filling in sunken eyes.

There are numerous fillers to choose from: collagen (both animal and human derived), hyaluronic acid, calcium hydroxylapatite, and even one's own fat to name the most common. There are five main factors to consider when you and your Dermatologist, or other cosmetic physician, are choosing the right filler for you.

First is the location of where you desire the filler. Certain fillers are more suited toward volumizing while others are better for facial contouring. It is also important to know that certain products are not injected into the lips. Second and third, are the products duration and cost. Collagen can last as little as 3 months, hyaluronic acids (i.e. Restylane®, Perlane®, Juvederm™ Ultra, Juvederm™ Ultra Plus) last 6-12 months depending on the product, and calcium hydroxylapatite (Radiesse®) lasts up to 18 months. In general the cost slightly

increases with the longevity of the product. Fourth consideration is the product's safety. With some of the animal derived collagen products, you must get a series of skin tests prior to the injection to insure you are not allergic to the product. That is not the case with the calcium hydroxylapatite or hyaluronic acid products. Fifth is the use of anesthesia. The procedure does not have to be painful, therefore a combination of injectable and topical anesthesia and ice are always used for your comfort.

Additionally, always know the credentials of who is doing your injections. Is he or she a Board Certified Dermatologist, Board Certified in a cosmetic specialty (i.e. plastic surgery)? What qualifies him or her to do the injections?

You will enjoy your natural rejuvenated look after trying dermal fillers.

I invite you come to Dermacare Laser and Skin Care Clinics of Tri-Cities for a Free Consultation and Skin Analysis and Experience the Dermacare Difference.

For further information about dermal fillers visit:

www.dermacare.com/tricities

www.radiesse.com

www.juvedermusa.com

www.restylaneusa.com

Dr. Sidney B. Smith is a Board Certified Dermatologist and locally owns Dermacare Laser and Skin Care Clinics of Tri-Cities. He is also the Corporate Medical Director and Chair of the Dermacare Corporate Medical Board of Directors. Dermacare Laser and Skin Care Clinics is an international physician based laser and aesthetic skin care company.