



FIND A BEAUTY DOCTOR NOW!
Doctors reveal inside information on top cosmetic enhancement procedures. Turn to page 105.

OPTION 02**Collagen**

Although collagen fillers changed the face of beauty when they entered the marketplace in the 1980s, they quickly fell out of favor when longer-lasting hyaluronic acid was introduced. However, many doctors still use collagen, especially for plumping the lips and filling in "smoker's lines" around the mouth. Boca Raton, FL, oculoplastic surgeon Steven Fagien, MD, says, "Collagen-type products are still best in many patients when treating particular facial lines, such as the horizontal lines on the forehead. It provides a softer fill and avoids the bumps that can be seen in this region with hyaluronic acid, or a drop of the eyebrow that can occur in some individuals after treatment with botulinum toxin." Another advantage of collagen: It's great for recreating structure. New York City dermatologist David Goldberg, MD, says, "Collagen's biggest strength is its structural effect. It can be used along a drooping or disappearing upper lip line to help hold the entire lip up."

COLLAGEN**WHAT IT IS**

This naturally occurring component of the skin acts as a support structure, yet its abundance declines with age.

BRANDS

CosmoDerm*, CosmoPlast*, Eviolence**

PRO

Instant results

CON

Short-lived effects

HOW LONG IT LASTS

Two to three months [Eviolence is purported to be the longest lasting.]

*CosmoDerm and CosmoPlast are FDA approved for the treatment of soft-tissue deformities, such as scars and wrinkles. All other uses are considered off-label.

**Pending FDA approval.

A new kind of collagen

With the imminent FDA approval of Eviolence (as of press time), collagen is getting attention once again. Doctors who have used the porcine (pig-derived) collagen are optimistic about Eviolence, saying that it's easy to inject and it causes less bruising and swelling than the hyaluronic acids. According to West Palm Beach, FL, dermatologist Kenneth Beer, MD, "Studies show that Eviolence lasts up to nine months, which is a significant improvement from the collagen products currently available." Though it's slated to be approved for the nasolabial folds, Eviolence can be used off-label in other wrinkles and folds, and a lighter formulation suitable for fine lines and lip augmentation called Eviolence Breeze is in the works. And because it's porcine and not bovine (cow) collagen, there's a lower risk of allergic reaction and no need for skin tests.

CosmoDerm and CosmoPlast, which currently are the most popular collagen products, do not require an allergy test, and results are immediate. Although overfilling is necessary to achieve the desired result, the excess fluid is absorbed over the first few hours after treatment, and minor redness and swelling subside in a few days. CosmoDerm and CosmoPlast contain an anesthetic to make injections more comfortable, and results last from two to three months.

FILL WRINKLES WITH YOUR OWN FAT

You just may have an abundant supply of filler on your hips or thighs, and you can take it from where you don't want it and have it injected where you do. A liposuction-like procedure can be used to harvest the fat, and then it is treated with antibiotics and processed before it is reinjected into the wrinkles and furrows of your face, where you'll see instant plumping. The advantage of fat: It's your own tissue, so there's no risk of an allergic reaction. And fat injections are considered permanent, since 30 to 50 percent of the fat transferred survives long term. The downside: Fat injections require another procedure to harvest the fat, which is slightly more invasive than injections alone. "There's more to fat injections than 'suck it out here and inject it there,'" says Dr. Wolf. "The fat is more likely to survive in areas around muscle and good blood supply."



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