The resilience and youthful contours of your skin, its ability to counter the effects of time, wind and weather, owes much to hyaluronic acid. Hyaluronic acid also plays an important role giving volume to the skin, shape to the eyes and elasticity to the joints. Hyaluronic acid is found naturally in your skin and other tissues. Hyaluronic acid has a chemical structure similar in some ways to sugar, and is identical in all species and in all tissue types. Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers are made from NASHA gel (Non-Animal Stabilized Hyaluronic Acid).

Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers can be used to give you a long-lasting and natural beauty lift: smoothing wrinkles and folds, or giving your mouth a fuller, more sensuous form.

More than 27 million patients all over the world have been treated with various hyaluronic acid based products over the years. Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers are extremely safe. More than five hundred thousand men and women in all age groups around the world have been successfully treated with Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers since 1996. Studies show that the vast majority of them were so happy with their results they would be willing to have the treatment again.

Because the NASHA used in Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers are produced by fermentation, there is no risk of transmitting diseases between species, or eliciting allergic reactions in patients who are sensitized to common foods, such as beef, chickens and eggs – and Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers are acceptable to vegetarians. No skin testing is needed before Hyaluronic Acid dermal filler treatments.

The sizes of the NASHA gel particles in Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers are custom tailored to match the tissue structures in the skin being treated, and they are stabilized to form a continuous 3-dimensional molecular network. Nutrients, oxygen and hormones pass freely between the gel particles, maintaining the health and vitality of your skin. Since the body has its own system for absorbing hyaluronic acid, it slowly disappears over time without a trace.

Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers can be used in combination with each other. For example, a deep fold can first be treated with a higher density filler, then a medium density filler can be used at a later date if you wish to correct residual lines in that area. Light density fillers can be used for thin, superficial lines, for example around the eyes, around the mouth and on the forehead. Many people are looking for that slightly fuller shape for their chin, or perhaps a rounder more sensuous line along the cheeks or lips. Just a touch of additional volume can make an enormous difference to your appearance.

Unlike collagen (which lasts 3-6 months), the benefits of Hyaluronic Acid dermal filler treatment should be visible for 6-18 months, depending on the location of the treatment and the nature of your skin. For example, highly mobile areas like the lips tend to require at least a touch-up treatment after about 6 months. Areas where there is less movement may only require additional treatment after 18 months. Experience has shown that smaller amounts of Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers are often needed for maintenance than for the initial correction.

In some areas (for example: the forehead and upper lip), botulinumtoxin A injection treatments are often used to reduce unwanted muscle movement and so prolong the effect of the Hyaluronic Acid dermal filler treatments in those areas.

In summary, Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers are:
- Long-lasting, but ultimately biodegradable and non-permanent.
- Can last 6-12 months before being completely reabsorbed
- Effects can be cumulative – smaller volumes are sometimes needed for maintenance treatments
- There are no animal ingredients
- No skin test is needed
Q&A

What are some of the common uses for Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers?

Common uses for Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers include:
- correcting folds and wrinkles of the face
- acne scars
- nasolabial folds (between your nose, mouth and cheeks)
- horizontal (upper forehead) frown lines
- glabellar (lower forehead) frown lines
- chin augmentation
- depressed corners of the mouth, also known as marionette lines
- lip enhancement, including treatment of the edges of the lips and wrinkles around the lips to stop lipstick from leaking from your lips onto the surrounding skin

What are some other uses for Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers?

Other uses for Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers include:
- filling subcutaneous skin defects
- filling of orbits of the eyes
- augmentation of cheek bones, chin or bridge of the nose
- correcting some irregularities of the nose
- filling small facial bone or hand bone defects
- augmentation of the nipples

How much do Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers cost?

In Canada, Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers are not expensive; however there is a cost involved. Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers are very affordable even for those with modest incomes, but some people need to budget for these treatments, just as they would for buying accessories like shoes and having their hair styled.

Having successful cosmetic treatments for your face is not expensive, it is priceless.

Treatment of the lips or nasolabial folds would usually consume one or two 1.0 ml syringes of Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers. Syringes of light density Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers containing about 0.5 ml are often used for outlining the lips or treating fine lines around the lips and on other parts of the face.

Enhancement of the cheekbones, lateral eyebrows, and jawline with Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers are a more advanced method of replacing the fullness of these areas that is lost over time. The goal is to reduce the deflation of the cheeks and jaw that is caused by the absorption of facial fat, and thinning of the bone structure of the cheekbones and jaw.

The Dermal-Lift procedure requires a greater amount of Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers, and is provided as a package. Dr. Searles can discuss more about what this method can provide for you. Dr. Searles can give you a price quote after he has examined your facial structure, and discussed with you your desired results.

What does Hyaluronic Acid dermal filler treatment feel like?

Dr. Searles has trained in the use of ice to prevent discomfort when doing Hyaluronic Acid dermal filler treatments. Patients are very pleased that Dr. Searles can take good care of them by offering to do the treatments either with or without having to administer local anesthetic.

Some people find it helpful to take a couple of plain Tylenol™ and/or Advil™ an hour or two before treatment to prevent discomfort.

Who should not have Hyaluronic Acid dermal filler treatments?
- People who have thin, loose skin in the area to be treated
- People who have unrealistic expectations (as with any treatment, you need to have an accurate understanding of the likely benefits and risks of Hyaluronic Acid dermal filler treatment).
Can a face-lift or other surgery be performed after Hyaluronic Acid dermal filler treatment?
Yes. A face-lift can be performed after Hyaluronic Acid dermal filler treatment. The skin on the face is thick enough to prevent the implants from becoming visible after a face-lift. Hyaluronic Acid dermal filler treatments can sometimes reduce or eliminate the need for a facelift or other surgery, or can delay the need for repeated surgery.

Can Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers be used during pregnancy?
There is no technical or medical reason why Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers should not be used during pregnancy.

Pre-treatment instructions:
It is good to pamper yourself on treatment day! If you have a nice big breakfast or lunch, and an extra glass of water, you will be more comfortable. Many patients like to take a couple of plain Tylenol™ and/or Advil™ an hour or two before treatment (similar to what you might do before having a flu shot) to prevent discomfort. As a practical matter, bruising is seldom a major problem after Hyaluronic Acid dermal filler treatment. The chance of bruising can be reduced by minimizing your consumption of ASA, alcohol and Vitamin E for 3 days before Hyaluronic Acid dermal filler treatment.

Please wear no makeup, or makeup that is easy to remove, so that the area to be treated can be clearly seen. You can bring makeup with you, and you may apply your makeup immediately after treatment.

Post-treatment instructions:
After Hyaluronic Acid dermal filler treatment, there is occasionally some pain, swelling, itching or redness at the site of injection — similar to what you could experience after any injection. You may take a couple of plain Tylenol 3 times a day to reduce swelling and discomfort. ASA (Aspirin) should be avoided as it may increase bruising at the site of injection. Cold compresses or ice packs can also be used to reduce any swelling, itching or discomfort. Redness may last for 1 — 2 days, occasionally longer in some patients. Swelling in the lips can last for a week, and the lips may appear somewhat uneven until the swelling subsides.

In order to allow the implant to stabilize, try to avoid excessive movement of your facial muscles for the next few days, and in particular during the first 6 hours after your Hyaluronic Acid dermal filler treatment.

Until the initial swelling and redness have resolved, do not expose the treated area to intense heat (e.g. hot packs and sunbathing) or extreme cold.

Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers for correction of wrinkles and scars in men & women.

Please call: (780) 424-4464 if you have any questions about Hyaluronic Acid dermal fillers, and to arrange for prompt, confidential consultation and treatment.

○ No referral is needed. Treatment can be done the same day as the consultation, if you wish.

○ Interac™ Visa™ MasterCard™

○ Our staff can take the time to discuss your wishes and options, and answer your questions.
About Dr. Searles...

Dr. Searles is dually certified by the Royal College of Physicians of Canada in both Internal Medicine and Dermatology. He has been honoured to be elected as a Fellow of the prestigious American College of Physicians. He is a member of numerous National and International medical organizations devoted to the discovery and application of new ideas and techniques for treating medical and esthetic skin conditions.

Dr. Searles is a Clinical Professor in Medicine at the University of Alberta, and is the Director of Resident Training for Dermatology.

Dr. Searles’ primary mission is to deliver the best care possible through the use of the latest advances in medical research and new technologies.

Getting to Know your Options through the Consultation Process

Aesthetic dermatology, laser services and healthy skincare are the most effective ways to enhance your natural beauty and to prevent further skin damage. Dr. Searles and his team of trained nursing staff and Certified Laser Technicians provide consultations for all cosmetic and laser procedures along with advanced skincare offered at our office.

A consultation includes a complete evaluation of your skin history, depicting your skin care concerns and goals, and a treatment and skincare regimen based on those areas evaluated. The treatment and skincare options will be described in-depth to you so that you understand all the necessary information for beginning the recommended regimen. This information includes, but is not limited to, description of the treatment, pre- and post-treatment protocols, risks and side effects, costs, and before and after examples.

If an area of concern is not treatable with the technology and therapies available at Searles Dermatology & Aesthetics, we will refer you to a qualified professional in that field.

The consultation is designed to provide you with all the information necessary for you to feel most comfortable in receiving the benefits of these treatments and skincare programs.

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