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## **Frequently Asked Questions for Hyaluronic Acid Dermal Fillers**

### **Do I need to have a skin test and are there any side-effects?**

No need for a skin test. The rate of reactions to HA fillers is very low. However, after the treatment some common injection-related reactions may occur, such as swelling, redness, pain, itching, discoloration and tenderness at the injection site. These typically resolve spontaneously within a few days after injection into the skin and within a week after the injection into the lips. Other types of reactions are very rare, but about 1 in 2000 treated patients have experienced localized reactions thought to be of a hypersensitive nature. These have usually consisted of swelling at the injection site, sometimes affecting the surrounding tissues. Redness, tenderness and rarely acne-like formations have also been reported. These reactions have either started a few days after the injection or after a delay of two to four weeks, and have generally been described as mild to moderate and self-limiting with an average duration of two weeks. This text does not contain all the information known about these products. For more information please consult your practitioner.

### **Why do the lips sometimes become very swollen immediately after a HA treatment?**

The cause of this is not yet known, but there is no reason to believe that this is an immunological reaction. Normally, the swelling is gone within a week after injection into the lips.

### **Can a HA filler be used if I have undergone laser treatment or chemical peeling?**

If you have recently had some other kind of facial treatment, you are recommended to wait until the treated area is totally healed and the skin has normalized (usually four to six weeks) before you undergo a HA treatment.

### **Can patients with allergies of different kinds be more sensitive to a HA filler?**

So far, no connection between patients with allergies and patients that report a reaction to a HA filler has been established.

### **How long does the effect of a HA filler treatment last?**

The length of time the effect of a HA filler treatment lasts is very individual and depends on many factors, such as the structure of your skin, lifestyle, age, the degree of perfection demanded and the injection technique of the practitioner. Experience indicates that touch-up and follow-up treatments will add to the duration. The majority of HA fillers on average last 6-9 months the first time and 9-12 months for the second and subsequent treatments. Voluma is a thicker product that may last 12-18 months for the first and subsequent treatments.

### **Does a HA filler get stiffer in cold weather? What happens in the sun?**

You should not expose the treated area to intense heat (e.g. in a solarium or by sunbathing) or extreme cold for the first few days after the treatment in order to avoid the risk of inflammation as the area has been disturbed. However, once a HA filler has integrated into the body, it will adjust to your normal body temperature.

### **How will my skin look without follow-up treatments?**

The correction will gradually disappear until your skin looks like it did before the treatment. Follow-up injections will help you maintain your correction.

### **What are the contents of a HA filler?**

All HA filler products are clear, transparent and viscous gels. The only difference between the products is the size of the gel particles. In contrast to other similar products, the hyaluronic acid in fillers are not produced from animals. This means that there is no risk of disease being transmitted or allergic reactions being elicited if you are sensitive to common foods, such as beef, chicken and eggs. Many of the HA fillers now also contain lidocaine which makes the treatment more comfortable.

### **What is hyaluronic acid?**

Hyaluronic acid is a natural substance that is found throughout your body. It gives volume to the skin, lubricates the joints and gives the eyes their shape. The hyaluronic acid used in HA fillers is stabilized for long duration and is not of animal or human origin.

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