

# Soft Tissue Fillers: Clinical Applications

***Karol A Gutowski, MD, FACS***



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
Hospital & Health Sciences System

— Changing medicine. For good. —

# Disclosures

Merz Aesthetics- Advisory Board

AxcelRx Pharmaceuticals - Advisory Board

Suneva Medical - Instructor

Will discuss off-label uses

Will use brand names for ease of understanding

# Objectives

- Understand basic facial aging assessment
- Compare differences between fillers
- Identify anatomic sites for injection
- Learn to avoid & manage complications
- Review regulatory issues

# Fillers Used & Locations

## Most Common Sites

- Malar & cheeks
- Lips & perioral
- Tear troughs & periorbital
- Nasolabial folds
- Temples, hands, nose

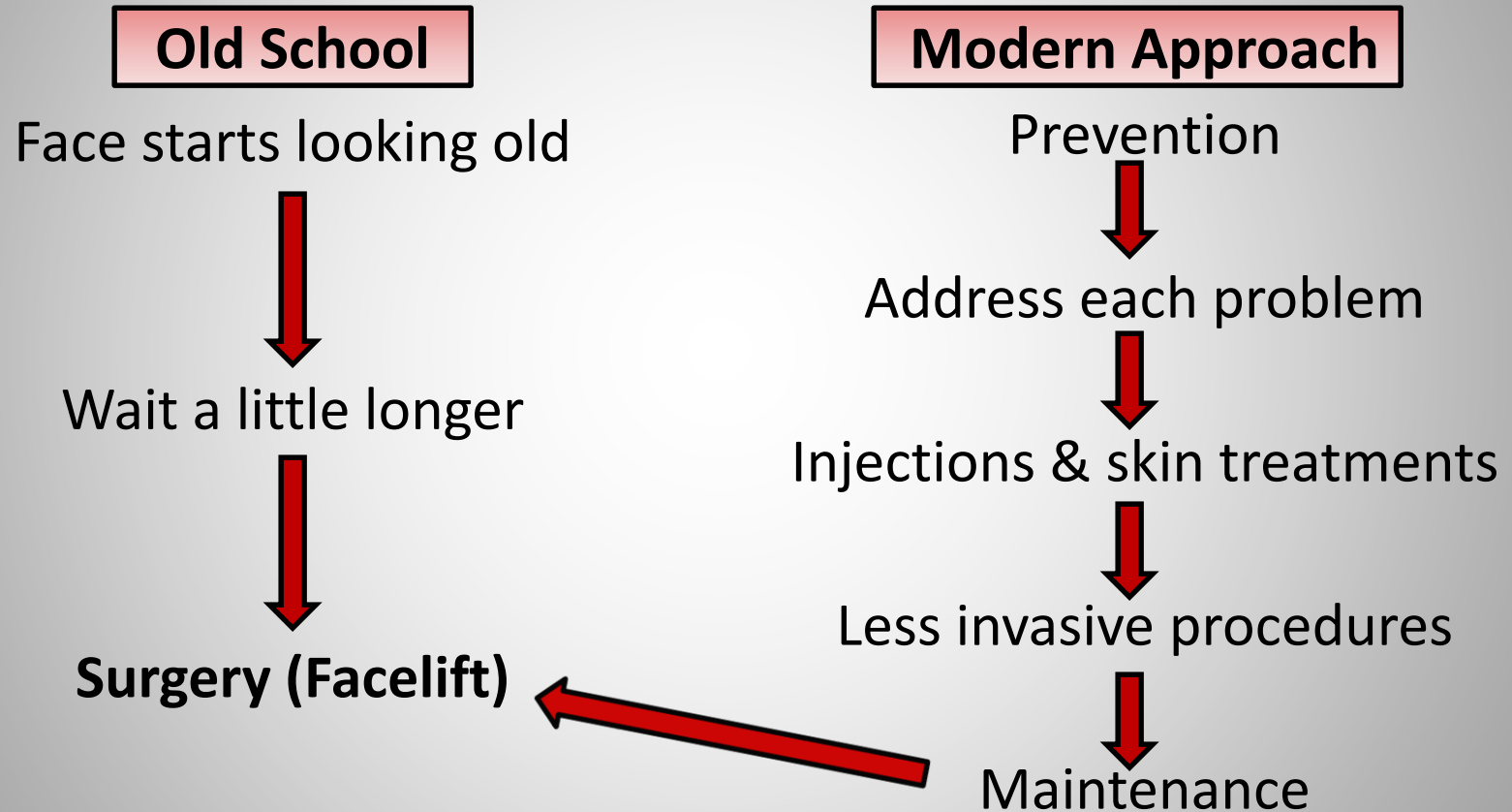
## Most Common Filler

- Radiesse
- Restylane products
- Bellafill
- Juvederm products
- Belotero
- Sculptra

# Understanding Facial Aging



# New Concepts



# What Happens with Aging?

- Skin changes
  - Thickness
  - Pigment
  - Lines
- Loss of facial volume (fat)
- Muscle descent
- Changes in facial bones

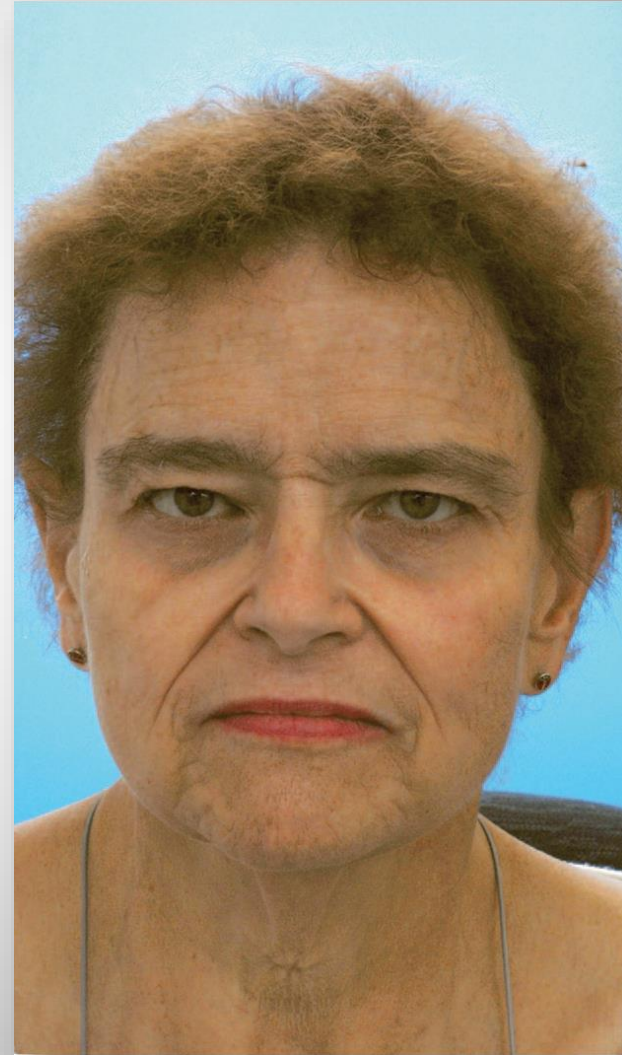


# Address Each Problem Area

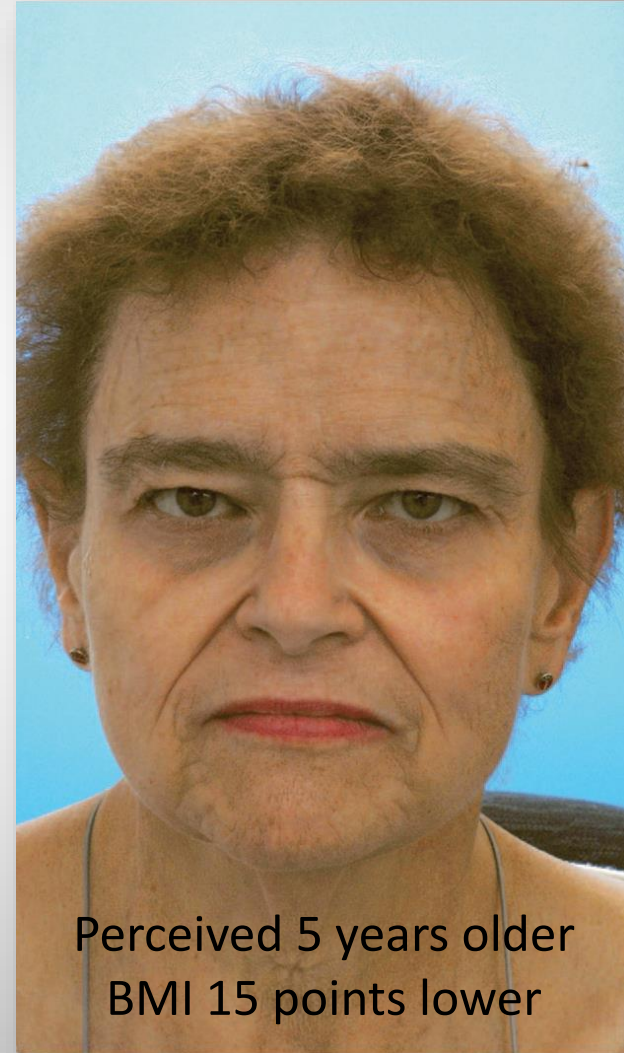
- **Skin Changes**
  - Medical facials & peels
  - Light therapy & lasers
  - Block muscles that cause lines
  - Fill in fine lines
  - Tighten skin
- **Loss of Volume**
  - Add volume



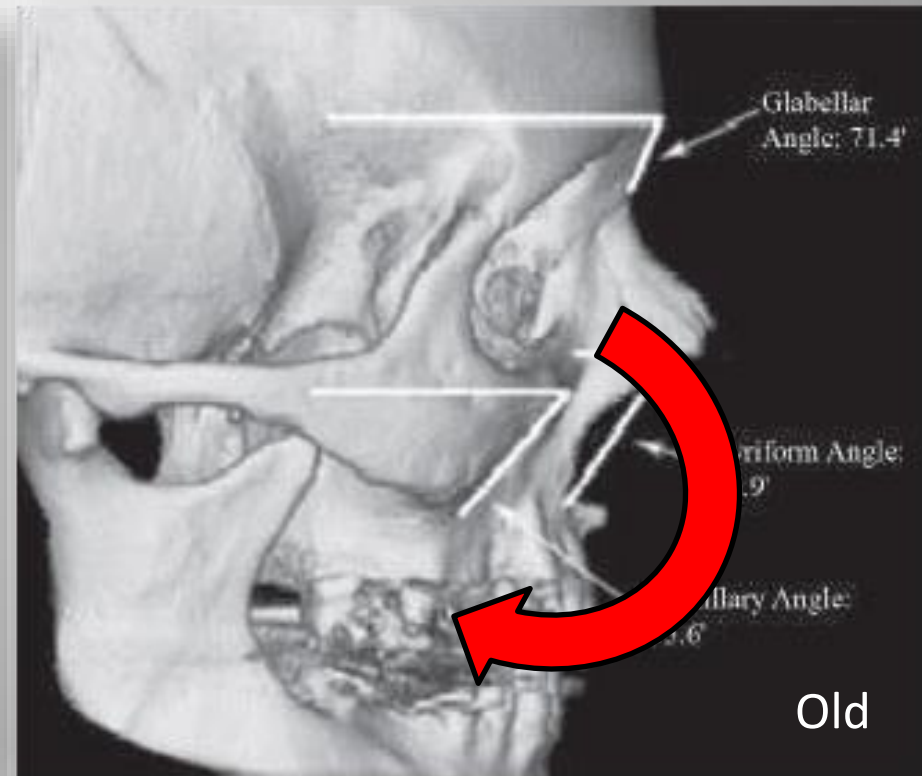
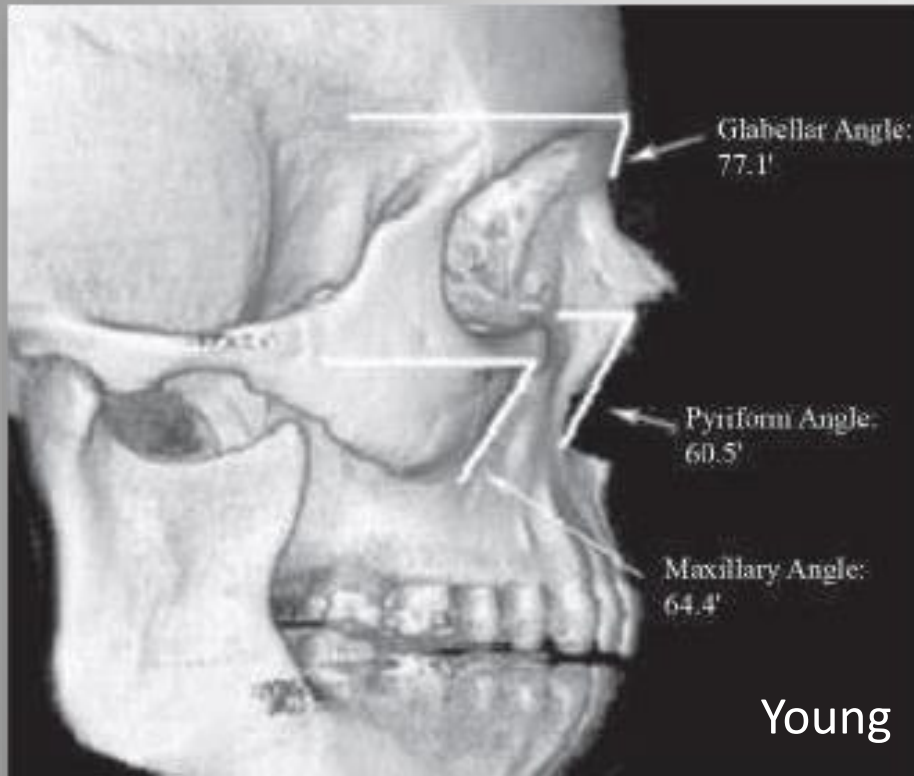
# Twin Comparison: Body Mass Index



# Twin Comparison: Body Mass Index

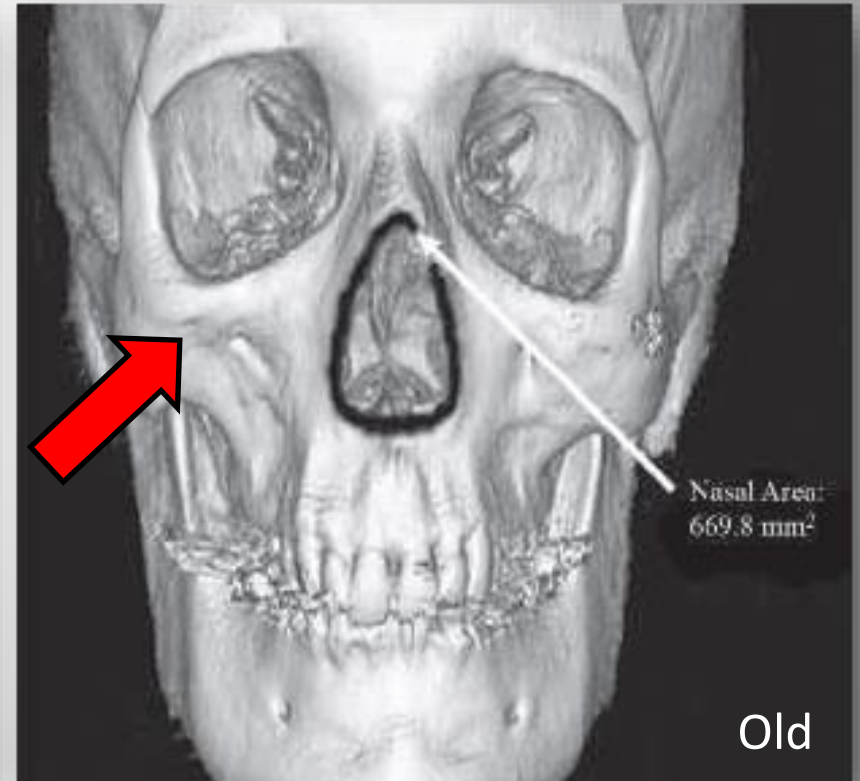
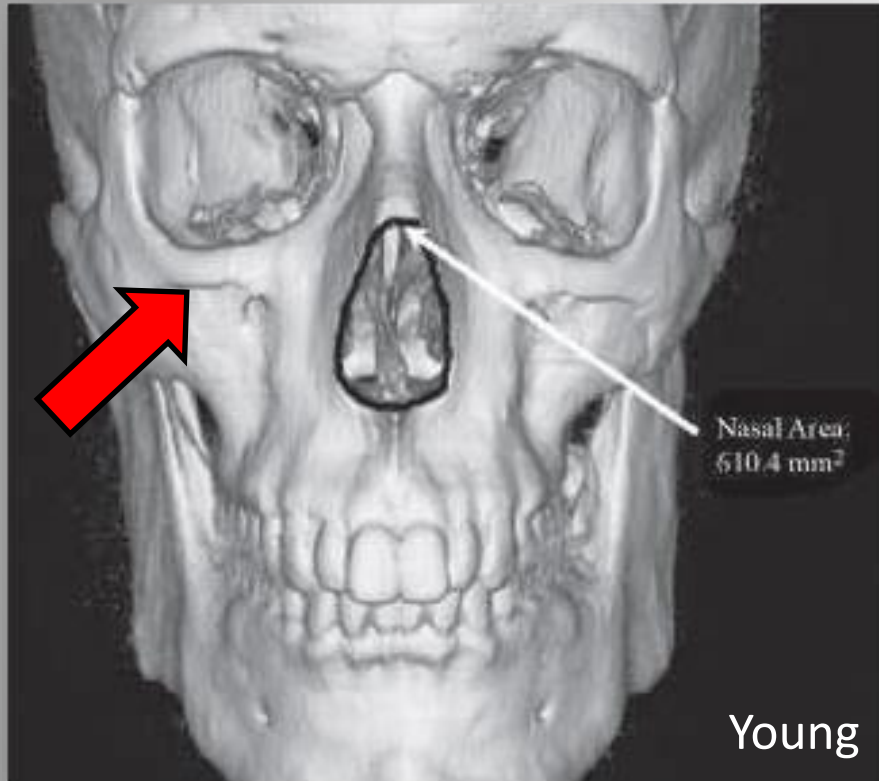


# Facial Bone Changes



Bones in the midface and jaw become less prominent causing loss of structural support which leads to a sunken appearance

# Facial Bone Changes



Bones around the eye become larger causing loss of structural support which leads to aged appearance

# Injectable Options



# Soft Tissue Filler Trends

COSMETIC MINIMALLY-INVASIVE PROCEDURES	2015	2014	2000	% CHANGE	% CHANGE
	2009	2008	2000	2015 vs. 2014	2015 vs. 2000
Botulinum Toxin Type A (Botox, Dysport)**	6,757,198	6,673,608	786,911	1%	759%
Cellulite treatment (Velosmooth, Endermology)	30,810	29,243	23,952	5%	29%
Chemical peel	1,310,252	1,250,059	1,149,457	5%	14%
Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) treatment	646,592	621,724	*	4%	*
Laser hair removal	1,116,708	1,112,046	735,996	0%	52%
Laser skin resurfacing	569,458	543,731	170,951	5%	233%
Ablative	159,795	152,478	*	5%	*
Non-ablative (Fraxel, etc.)	409,663	391,253	*	5%	*
Laser treatment of leg veins	207,862	207,790	245,424	0%	-15%
Microdermabrasion	800,340	881,905	868,315	-9%	-8%
Sclerotherapy	322,280	323,609	866,555	0%	-63%
Soft Tissue Fillers	2,440,724	2,295,647	652,885	6%	274%
Calcium hydroxylapatite (Radiesse)	256,256	257,953	*	1%	
Collagen	14,353	16,023	587,615	-10%	-98%
Porcine/bovine-based (Evolve, Zyderm, Zylplast)	14,353	16,023	*	-10%	*
Fat	70,283	67,609	65,270	4%	8%
Hyaluronic acid (Juvederm Ultra, Juvederm Ultra Plus, Perlane, Restylane, Belotero)	1,951,692	1,802,247	*	8%	*
Poly-lactic acid (Sculptra)	130,089	134,471	*	-3%	*
Polymethyl-methacrylate microspheres (Artefill)	18,051	17,344	*	4%	*
<b>TOTAL COSMETIC MINIMALLY-INVASIVE PROCEDURES</b>	<b>14,202,224</b>	<b>13,939,362</b>	<b>5,500,446</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>158%</b>

# The Typical Liquid Facelift



# The Atypical Result





# The Fillers

# Filler Overload

## More Options for Filler Duration

- Short-term degradable
- Long-lasting degradable
- Permanent

## More Mechanisms of Action

- Volumetric
- Structural
- Fibroplastic

## More Volume being Injected

## More Sites being Treated



# Types of Lines

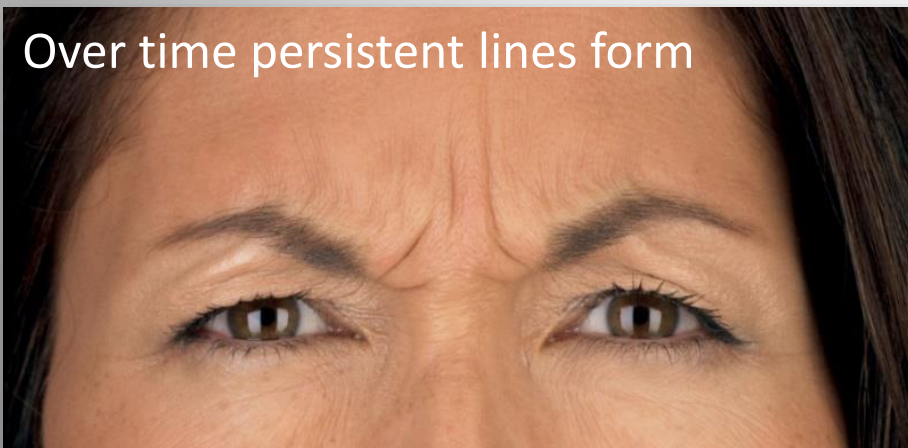
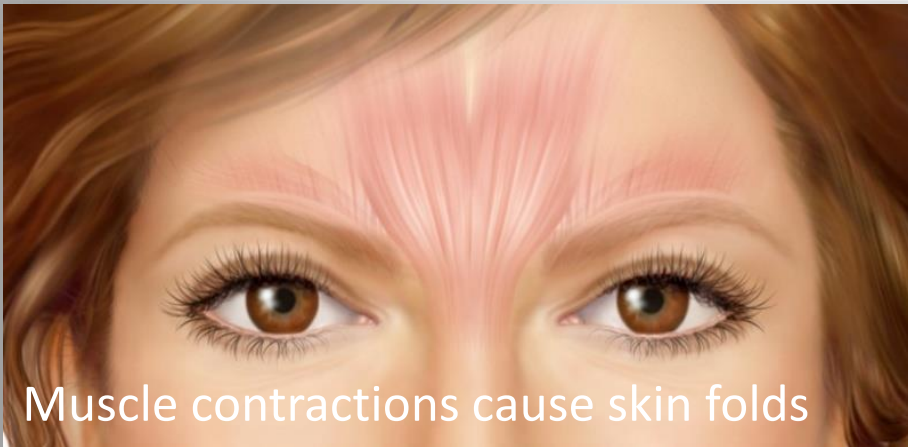
Lines at Rest  
(Static)



Lines with Movement  
(Dynamic)






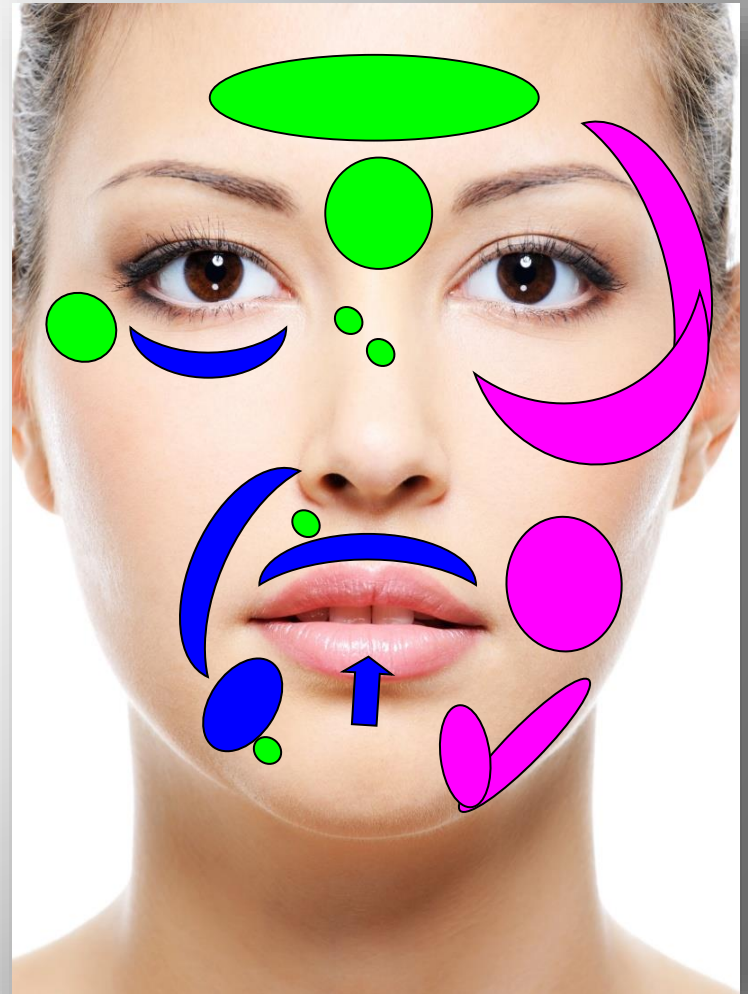
# Cause of Lines



Perioral volume loss

# Where & What to Inject

-  Neuromodulator (Botox, Dysport, Xeomin)  
For wrinkles with movement
-  Filler (Juvederm, Restylane)  
For wrinkles at rest  
For small volume deficits
-  Stimulator (Sculptra, Bellafill)  
For replacing regional volume loss



# Injectable Tissue Filler Options

**Silicone**

**Animal Collagen**  
(Zyderm, Zyplasty, Evolence)

**Human Collagen**  
(CosmoDerm, CosmoPlast,  
Fascian, Autologen,  
Cymetra, LaViv)



**Stimulators**  
PLLA (Sculptra)  
PMM (Bellafill)

CaHA (Radiesse)

**Hyaluronic Acids**  
(Juvederm & Voluma, Volbella  
Restylane, Belotero)

***Reversible***

# Soft Tissue Filler Classifications

## Source

Autologous

Biological

Synthetic

## Longevity/duration of effect

Temporary < 6 months

Long lasting 6 to 24 months

Semi permanent 2 to 5 years

Permanent > 5 years

Risk profile

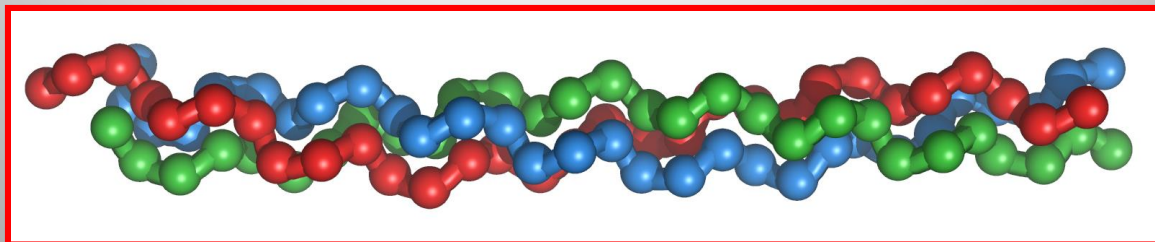
Injection expertise needed

Depth of injection

# Temporary Fillers: Collagen

## Bovine collagen

- First FDA approved nonautologous dermal filler (1981)
- Treatment of wrinkles, smile & frown lines, acne, postsurgical scars
- Double skin testing required (up to 3% positive)
- Allows for connective tissue ingrowth
- Excellent long-term safety profile
- Injected into dermis
- Last for 3 to 6 months





# Collagen 1980s

**Zyderm 1**      35 mg/mL collagen + 0.3% lidocaine

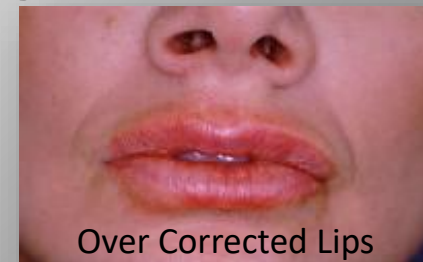
- Injected into superficial papillary dermis
- 100% overcorrection recommended because of water loss

**Zyderm 2**      65 mg/mL collagen + 0.3% lidocaine

- Injected into mid-dermis
- 50% overcorrection recommended

**Zyplast**      35 mg/mL collagen + 0.3% lidocaine

- Longer-lasting due to cross linking (less immunogenic)
- Injected into deep dermis
- No overcorrection



# Collagen New Millennium

**CosmoDerm** Human-derived collagen equivalents of Zyderm

**CosmoPlast** Human-derived collagen equivalents of Zyplast

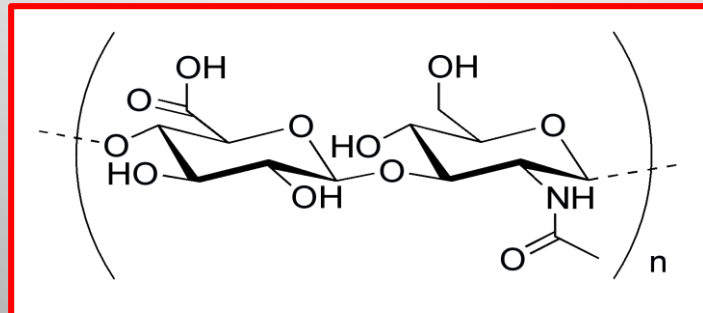
- FDA approved 2003
- No skin testing

**Evulence** 35-mg/mL type I collagen

- FDA approved 2008
- Cross-linked porcine collagen (skin testing not required)
- No overcorrection, lasts up to 1 yr
- Correction of moderate to deep wrinkles & folds (NLF)
- Not into lips (nodule formation)
- Discontinued late 2009 (tough market)

# Temporary Fillers: Hyaluronic Acid

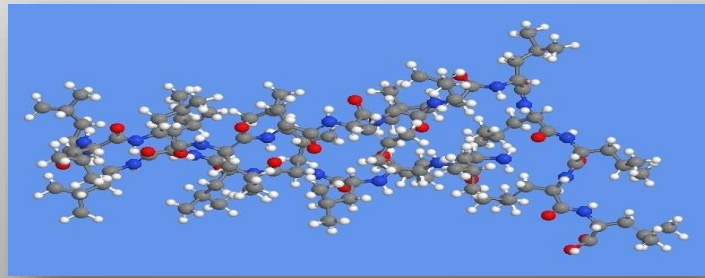
- Glycosaminoglycan biopolymer
- Found in all connective tissue
- Chemically the same for all species
  - Low risk for allergic reactions
  - Skin testing is not required
- Hydrophilic - provides matrix to retain dermal moisture
  - One gram of HA can bind up to 6 L of water
- Hyaluronic gels (Hylans) = Cross-linked to increase longevity



# Hyaluronic Acid Properties

Unique to hylan fillers

- Dynamic viscosity
  - Decreasing viscosity as shear rate increases
  - Upon injection hylans pass through needles more easily
  - When force removed, viscosity increases, gel thickens to minimize migration
- Isovolemic degradation
  - As it degrades, the remaining HA bind more water
  - Overall volume remains the same
  - Maintain 95% of initial filling volume until all is resorbed



# Hyaluronic Acid Products

**Animal Based HAs** from dermis of rooster combs

- **Hylaform**

- First HA available (but approved 2004)
- Mid to deep dermis for moderate to severe wrinkles & folds (NLF)

- **Hylaform Plus**

- Larger particle size (750 vs 500  $\mu$ m) & greater gel hardness
- Greater ability to deform surrounding tissues to correct defects
- Intended for deeper injections

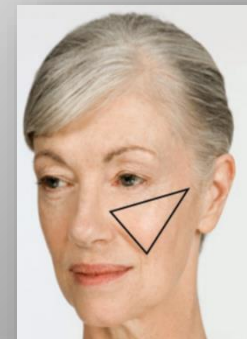
# Hyaluronic Acid Products

## **Non-Animal Based HAs** from *Strep equi*

- **Restylane**
  - First FDA approved filler (2003)
  - Correction of moderate to severe wrinkles and folds (NLF)
  - 20 mg/mL, uniform 400 nm particles, 1% cross-linked
  - 6 month duration
  - More viscous & less elastic than Hylaform
- **Restylane Silk** for lips & lip lines
- **Restylane Lyft** for deeper folds
- **Belotero Balance** for perioral & NLF, fine lines

# Hyaluronic Acid Products

- **Juvederm Ultra** (2006)
  - Mid to deep dermis for moderate to severe wrinkles & folds (NLF)
  - Higher HA concentration (24 mg/mL) than Restylane
  - More crosslinking than Restylane to increase longevity
  - Last up to 12 months
- **Juvederm Ultra Plus**
  - Larger particle size & more cross-linking
  - Thicker gel for volumizing deeper injections
- **Juvederm “XC”** includes 0.3% lidocaine
- **Voluma** (2013)
  - More “lift” for cheek elevation
  - Lasts up to 18 months



# Does HA Stimulate Collagen?

## Fillers and Neocollagenesis

JEAN D. A. CARRUTHERS, MD, FRCSC, FRCOPHTH,\* J. ALASTAIR CARRUTHERS, MBBS, MRCP, FRCPC,<sup>†</sup> AND SHANNON HUMPHREY, MD, FRCPC, FAAD<sup>‡</sup>

HA fillers show increased collagen around injection site for at least 3 months



# HA Filler Physical Properties

	<i>Hylaform</i>	<i>Hylaform Plus</i>	<i>Prevelle</i>	<i>Restylane</i>	<i>Perlane</i>	<i>Juvederm 30 HV</i>
Total HA concentration (mg/mL)	5.5	5.5	5.5	20	20	24
Gel-to-fluid ratio	98:2	98:2	98:2	75:25	75:25	60:40
HA gel concentration (mg/mL)	5.4	5.4	5.4	15.0	15.0	14.4
Degree of HA modification (%)	23	23	23	3	3	10
Percentage cross-linked HA	12	12	12	1.2	1.4	2
Dilution durability/percentage swelling	<25	<25	<25	50	50	300
G' modulus (Pa)	140–220	140–220	230–260	660	588	105
Average particle size (µm)	500	700	350	300	650	300

**HA products are NOT interchangeable**

# Filler Rheology

## Basics of Dermal Filler Rheology

SÉBASTIEN PIERRE, PHD,\* STEVEN LIEW, MD,† AND AUDE BERNARDIN, PHD\*

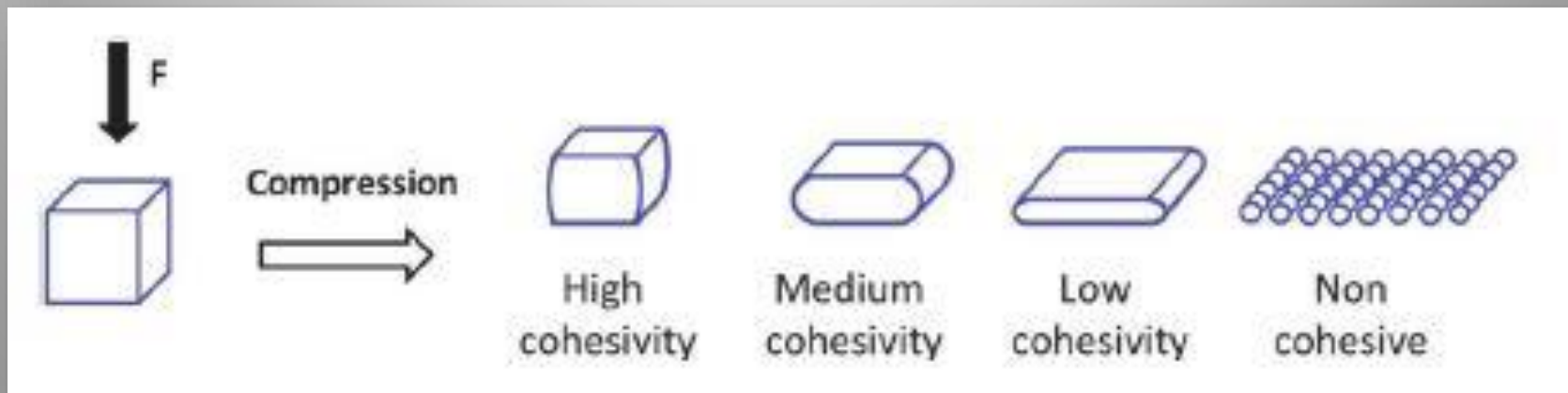
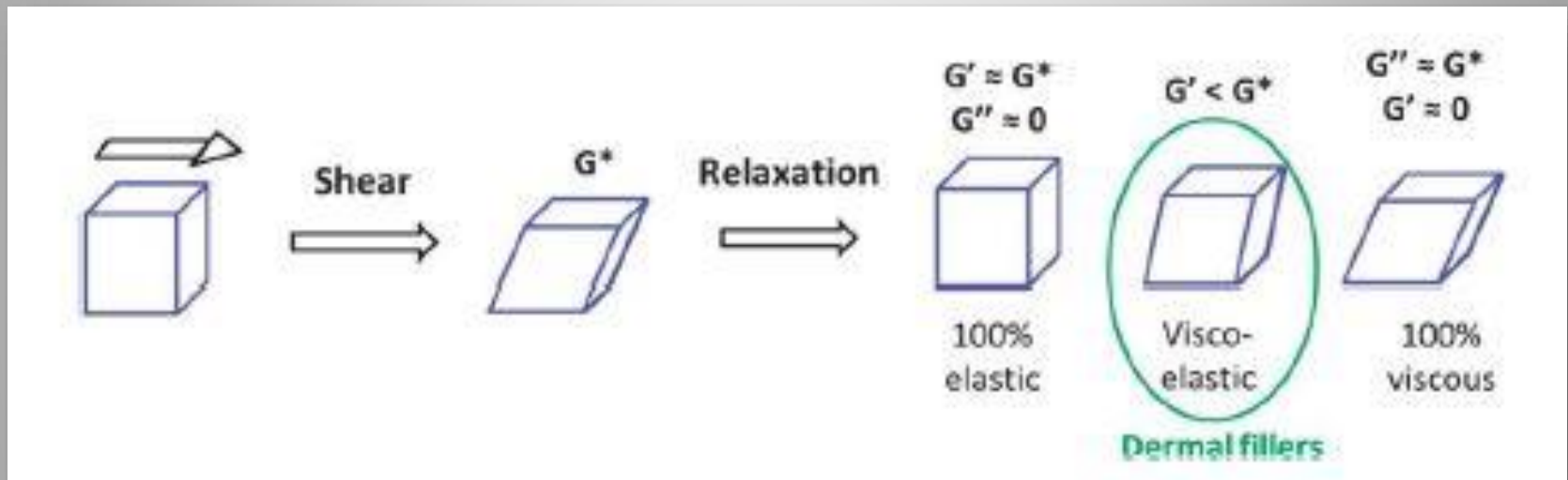
<i>Filler</i>	<i>G' (Pa)</i>	<i>G'' (Pa)</i>	<i>Tan δ</i>	<i>Compression (gmf)</i>
Juvéderm Ultra XC	207	80	0.39	96
Juvéderm Ultra Plus XC	263	79	0.30	112
Juvéderm Voluma XC	398	41	0.10	40
Juvéderm Volift with lidocainet	340	46	0.14	30
Juvéderm Volbella with lidocainet	271	39	0.14	19
Restylane-L	864	185	0.21	29
Perlane-L	977	198	0.20	32
Belotero Balance	128	82	0.64	69

# Filler Rheology

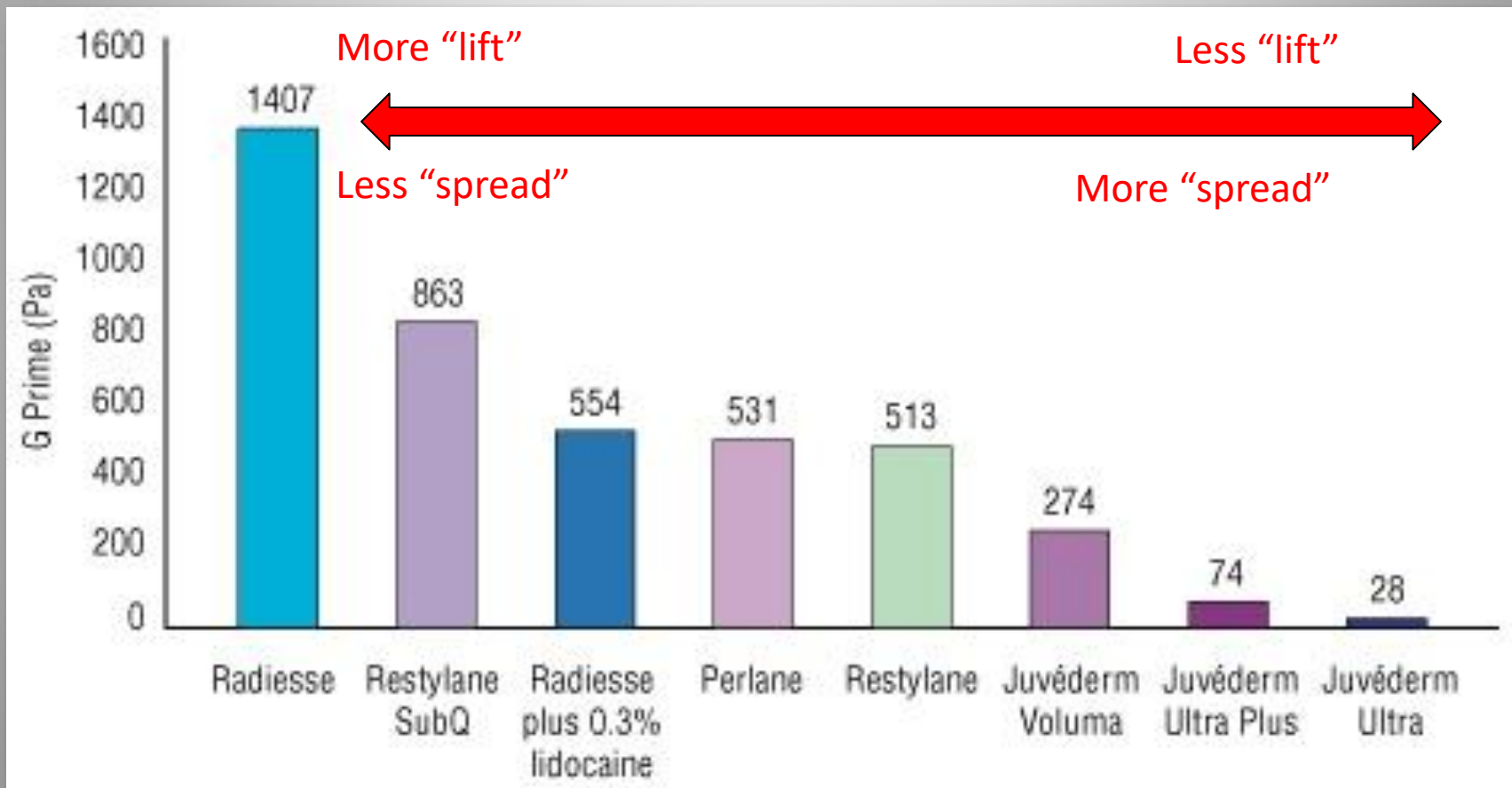
$G'$  = Elastic behavior (modulus)  
How much it can recover after a stress force

<i>Filler</i>	$G'$ (Pa)	$G''$ (Pa)	$Tan \delta$	<i>Compression (gmf)</i>
Juvéderm Ultra XC	207	80	0.39	96
Juvéderm Ultra Plus XC	263	79	0.30	112
Juvéderm Voluma XC	398	41	0.10	40
Juvéderm Volift with lidocainet	340	46	0.14	30
Juvéderm Volbella with lidocainet	271	39	0.14	19
Restylane-L	864	185	0.21	29
Perlane-L	977	198	0.20	32
Belotero Balance	128	82	0.64	69

# Filler Rheology



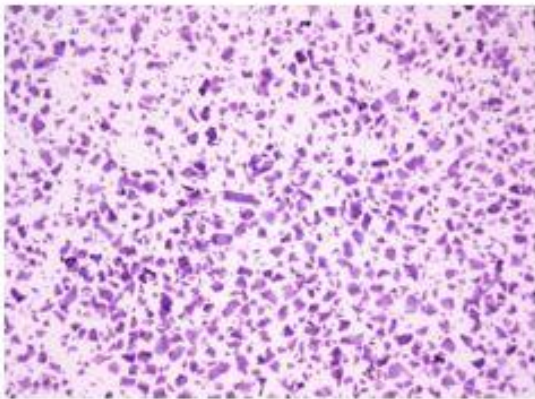
# Elastic Modulus\* (G prime)



\*Mathematical description of product's tendency to be deformed elastically  
May not match clinical results

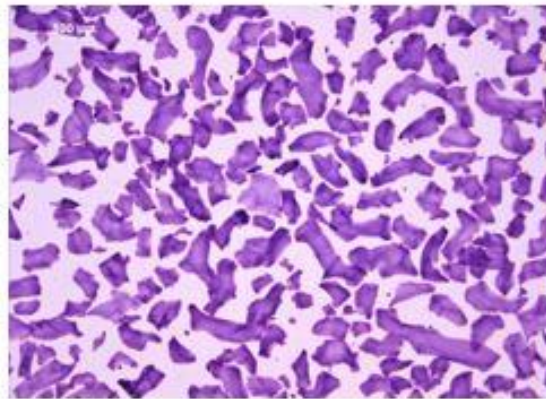
# Restylane Product Particle Size

## Silk



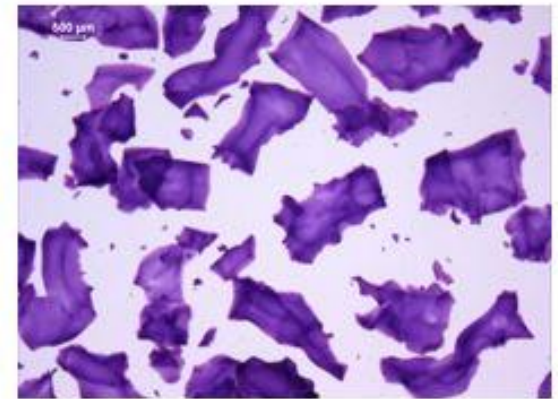
**Small Particle HA**  
Range of 50–220  $\mu\text{m}^*$

## Restylane



**Small Gel Particle HA**  
Range of 330–430  $\mu\text{m}^*$

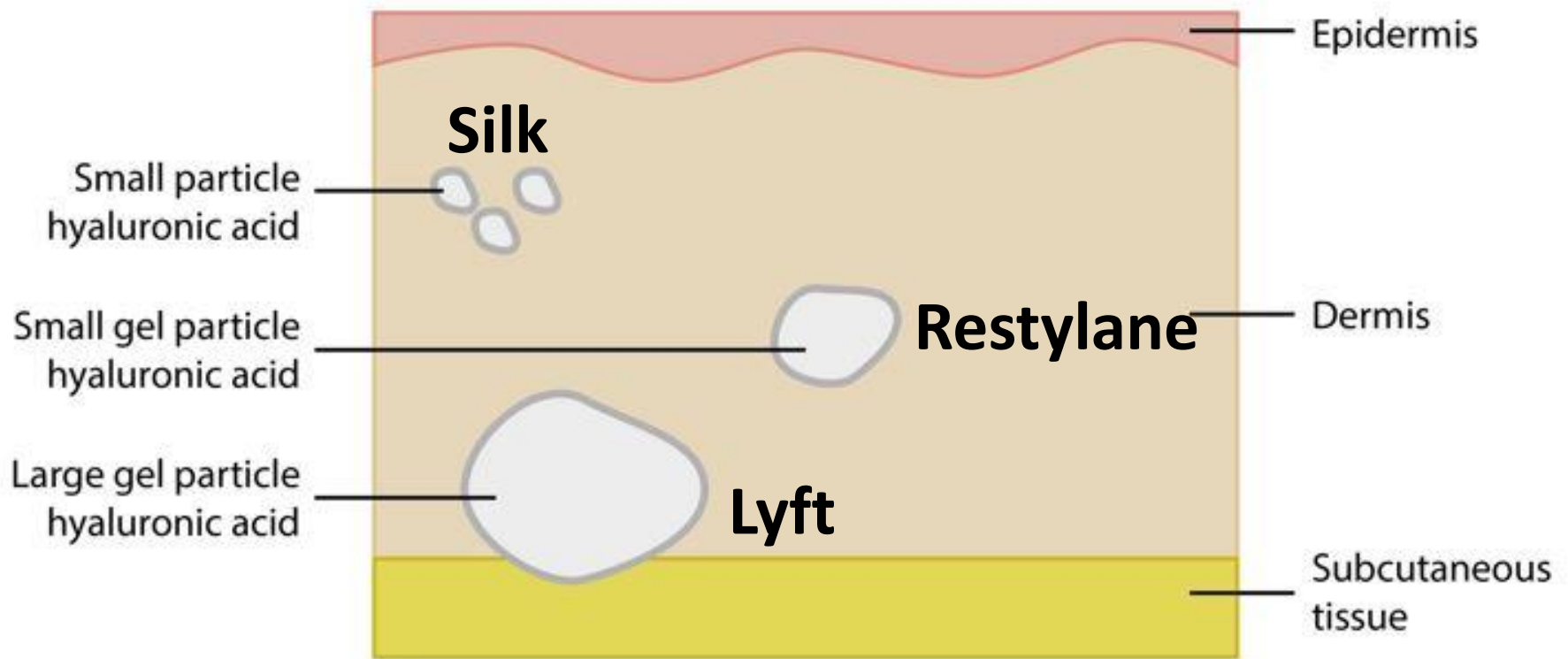
## Lyft



**Large Gel Particle HA**  
Range of 750–1000  $\mu\text{m}^*$

All 3 have 20 mg HA per mL  
Particle size is different

# Particle Size & Injection Depth



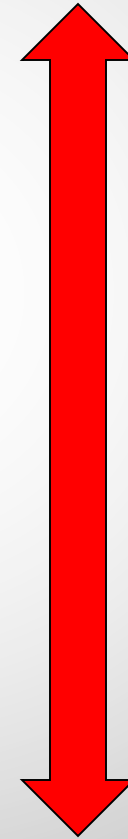
# Rheology & Filler Choice

- Midface
  - Use higher  $G'$  products
  - Lift & fill
- Fine lines & wrinkles
  - Use low-moderate  $G'$  products
  - Easy to mold
  - Less visible



# Water Absorption

Prevelle Silk



Less Swelling

Restylane and Lyft

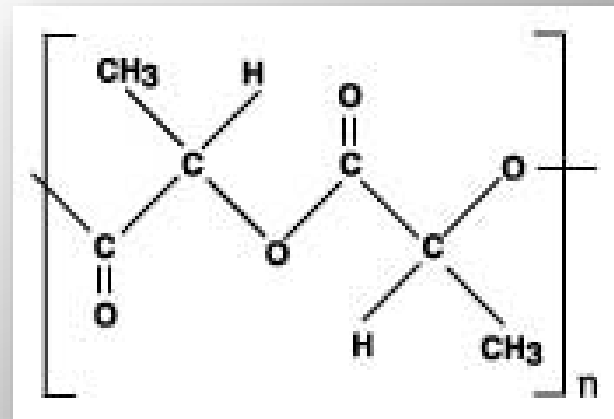
Juvéderm Ultra Plus

More Swelling

# Long Lasting Fillers: PLLA

## Poly L Lactic Acid

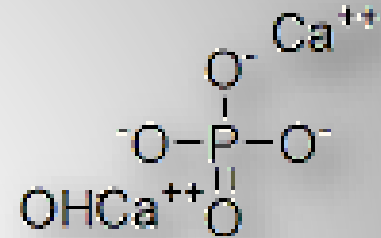
- Biodegradable, nontoxic, synthetic, inactive material from corn starch
- Used in sutures, stents, other biomedical implants
- Growth of type I collagen into injection sites
- Metabolized to CO<sub>2</sub> & glucose
- **Sculptra** (2004) HIV-related facial lipoatrophy then cosmetic indications
  - Up to 2 year duration
  - Provides true volumization
  - Not an instant results filler
  - Requires temporary overcorrection
  - Reassess at 4-6 weeks



# Semipermanent Fillers: CaHA

## Calcium Hydroxylapatite

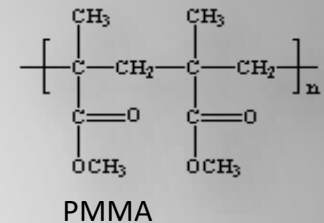
- Mineral component of bone
- Non immunogenic & biocompatible
- Scaffold for collagen in-growth
- Dental, orthopedic, urologic, & vocal cord applications
- **Radiesse** (2006) HIV facial lipoatrophy & cosmetic indications
  - Spheres (24 - 45  $\mu\text{m}$ ) suspended in carboxymethylcellulose gel
  - Highly viscous
  - Predisposed to nodule formation, especially in lips
  - 9 to 18 month duration but may last 2 to 5 years



# Permanent Fillers

**Autologous Fat** - The original filler

**Silicone** - Controversial



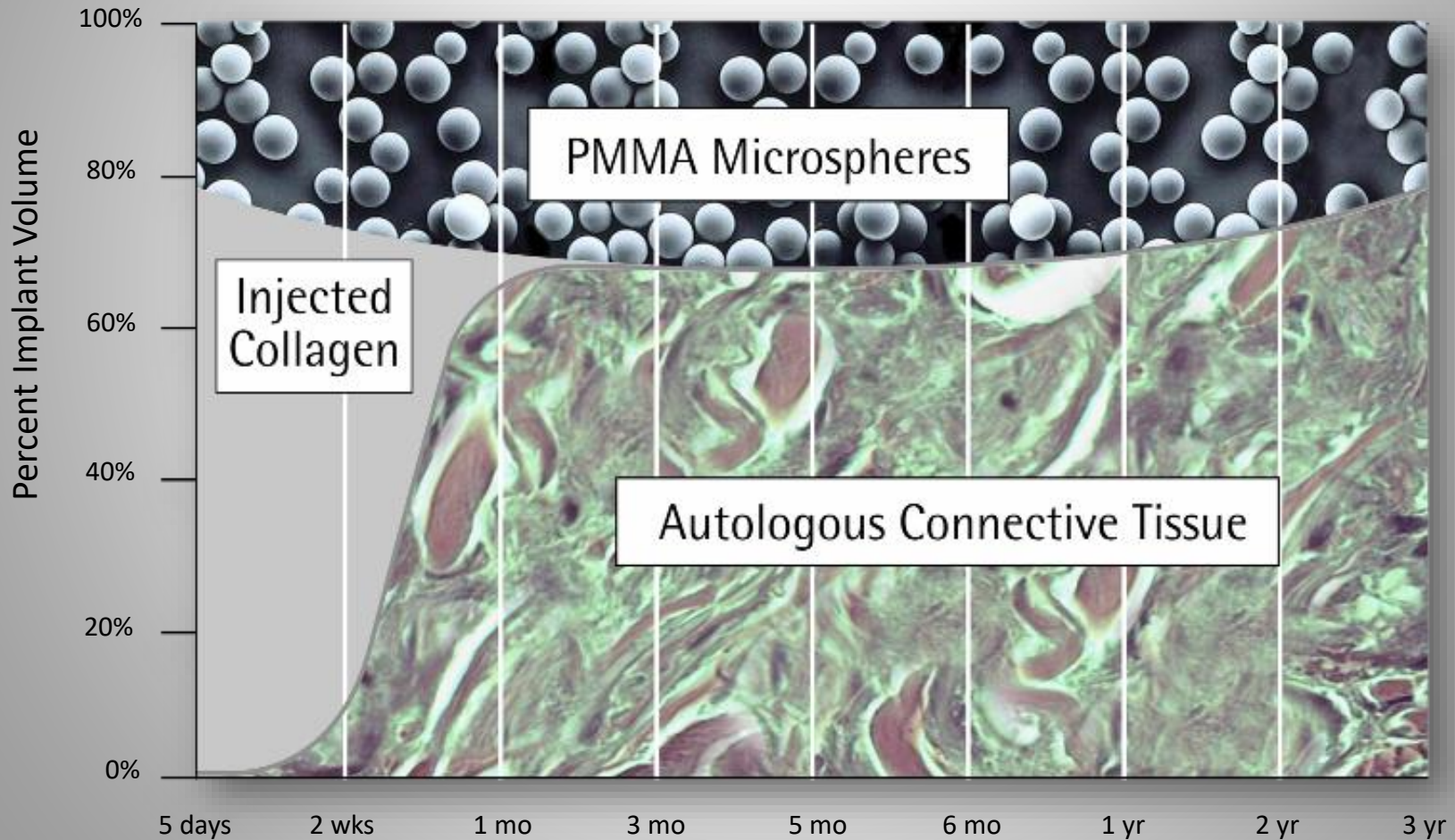
**Polymethylmethacrylate** (PMMA, Plexiglas, Lucite, acrylic glass)

- Used in bone cement, lenses, dental work, pacemakers
- **Bellafill** (2015, **Artefill** 2003) correction of nasolabial folds (**Artecoll** in Europe)
  - Microspheres (30 - 42  $\mu\text{m}$ ) in 3.5% bovine collagen + 0.3% lidocaine
  - **Skin test needed**
  - Collagen stimulation & ingrowth as bovine collagen dissolves
  - Off the market in 2008 (Artes out of business), back in 2009

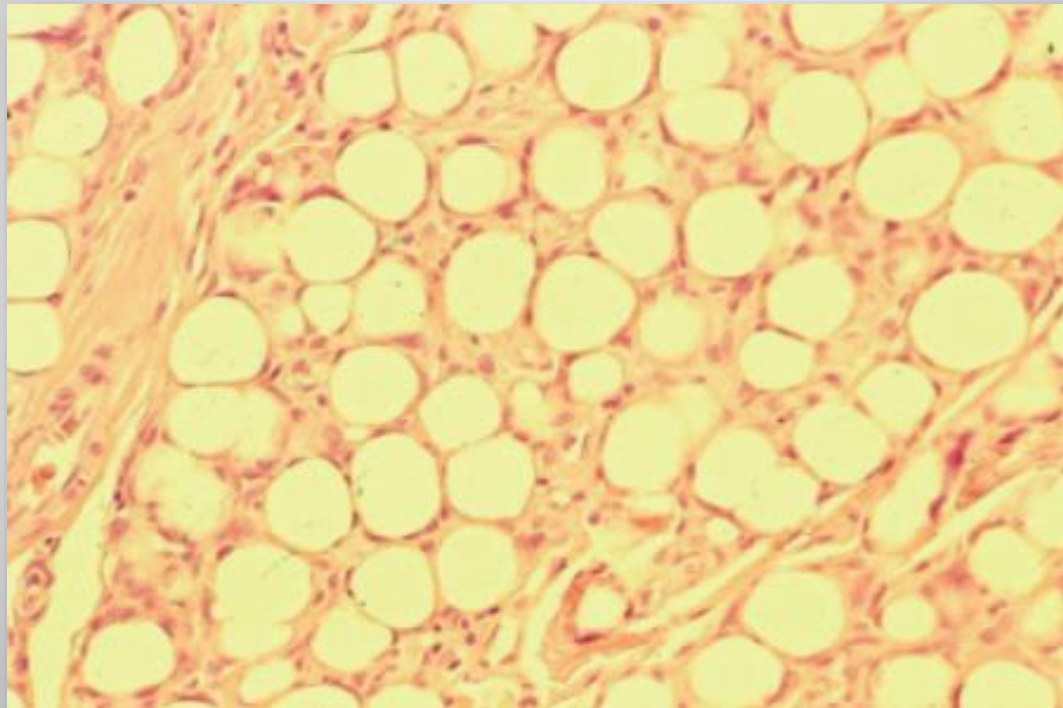
**Aquamid** (World wide use, not FDA approved)

- Acrylic polymer hydrogel

# Scaffold for Collagen Deposition

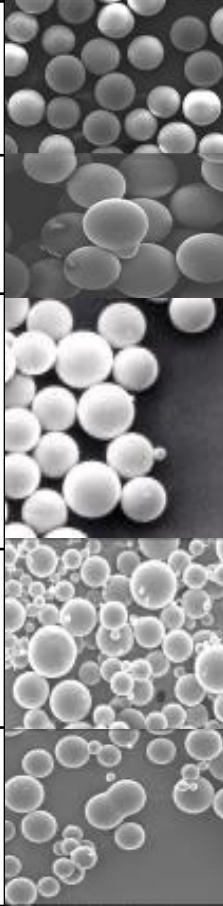


# PMMA Encapsulation after 3 Months



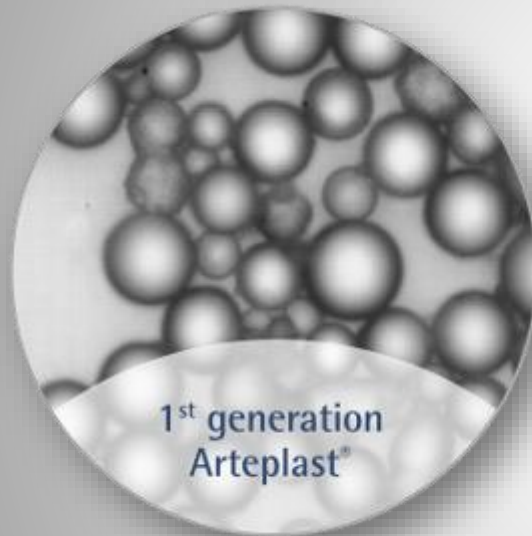
Multiple fibroblasts & connective tissue encapsulation of individual microspheres

# PMMA Variability

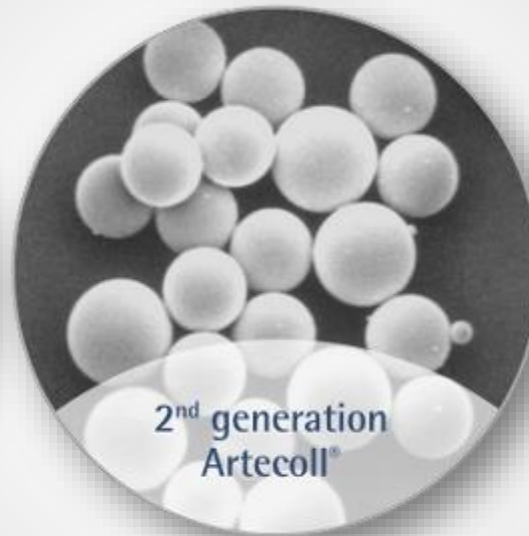
Product	Country of Origin	SEM Analysis (Particle shape, surface finish, size, gross size distribution, and anomalies)	SEM Image
Artefill 2007	USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Size: 30 to 50 microns, with negligible small sizes.</li> <li>■ Shape: Smooth surfaced microspheres with scant if any sediment.</li> <li>■ The only FDA approved PMMA-enhanced dermal filler</li> </ul>	
Artecoll 2005	Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Size: 30 to 50 microns, with negligible small sizes.</li> <li>■ Shape: Smooth surfaced microspheres with slight surface irregularity, scant sediment.</li> </ul>	
Artecoll 2001	Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Size: 32 to 40 microns, but with larger variation in particle sizes</li> <li>■ Shape: presence of nanoparticles on the surface of microspheres.</li> <li>■ There are sub-20 micron particles and some sub 5 micron particles, some sediment.</li> </ul>	
Metacril 2006	Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Size: 0.2 to 60 microns. Many sub-20 micron particles, and many are sub-5 micron.</li> <li>■ Shape: Many irregular shapes, some non spherical, jagged edges, poor surface.</li> </ul>	
NewPlastic 2006	Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Size: 0.2 to 70 microns. Some large spheres &gt; 70 microns and some very small.</li> <li>■ Shape: Some are non spherical, and conjoined, many small spheres and particles.</li> </ul>	

# PMMA Production Evolution

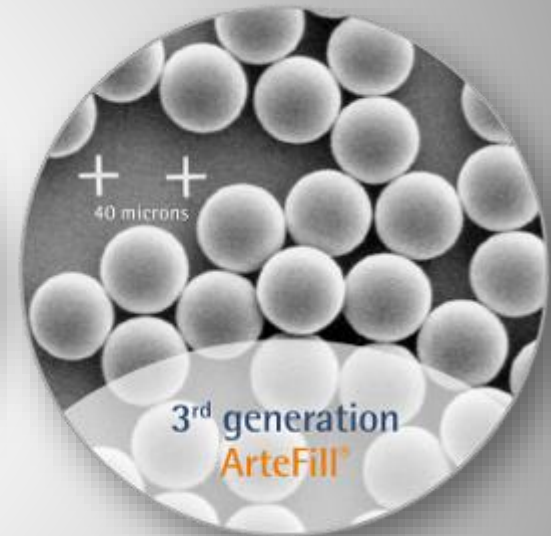
**Arteplast**



**Artecoll**



**Artefill & Belafill**



Contaminant Elimination

Production control to insure MS are  
round & smooth

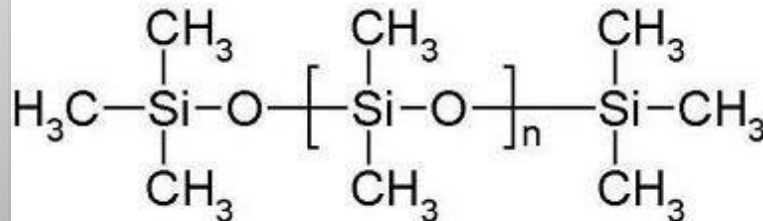
Uniform particle size (30 – 50  $\mu\text{m}$ )

<1% are <20  $\mu\text{m}$  per FDA



# Silicone

- 1992: FDA bans liquid injectable silicone
- 1994 & 1997: FDA approves AdatoSil (Adaptosil) 5000 & Silikon 1000 (highly purified silicone) for retinal detachment
- 1997: FDA Modernization Act allows off label use of devices
- Filler indication is strictly off-label
- Liability carriers have regulations on liquid injectable silicone



# Silicone

## Largest report of Silikon 1000

- 916 patients over 6 years
- 5246 treatments during 3307 visits
  - 3.5 visits per patient
  - 1.6 treatments per visit
- Adverse events
  - Overcorrection in 11 patients (1%)
  - Retrospective chart review limitations

# Silicone for Acne Scars



# Silicone for HIV Facial Atrophy



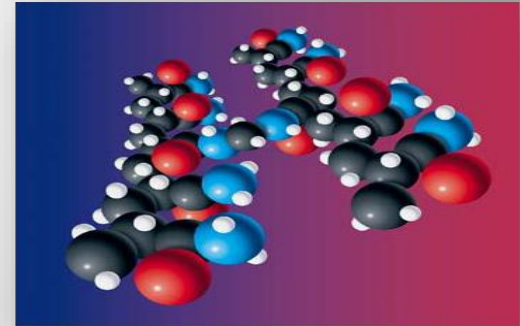
# Silicone Summary

- FDA studies underway to assess safety & efficacy
  - Silicone injections remain controversial
  - Inherently unpredictable, adverse events
- versus
- Safe & effective, giving superior aesthetic results if:
    - Use highly purified silicone
    - Microdroplet technique (0.01 cc into subdermal plane 2-4 mm intervals)
    - Small volumes ( $\leq 0.5$  cc for smaller defects,  $\leq 2$  cc for facial lipoatrophy)
    - Limit injections to once monthly (allow fibroplasia augmentation)
  - May be ideal filler if injected correctly
  - Complications similar to other FDA approved fillers

# Aquamid

2.5% Cross-linked polyacrylamide (PAAG)

- Homogeneous gel, no microparticles
- No foreign body reaction to achieve augmentation
- Permanent results (up to 11 years)
- Approved in Europe (2001)
- NLF, lips, cheeks, nose, facial lipoatrophy



# Aquamid

## **Adverse reactions following injection with a permanent facial filler polyacrylamide hydrogel (Aquamid): causes and treatment**

- Prospective study of 40,000 case reports between 2003
- 55 were reported to have experienced adverse events (AE)
  - AEs occurred mainly in lips and nasolabial folds
  - 55 patients, with 51 requiring treatment
  - The time from last injection to AE: 2 to 364 days (median of 12 days)
  - High dose broad-spectrum antibiotic effective for a short time
  - Steroids & NSAIDs (NSAIDs) aggravated symptoms & prolong treatment time
- Conclusions: Nodules or swellings later than 1 week and less than 1 year should be treated immediately
  - Broad-spectrum antibiotic (quinolone) in high dosage
  - Steroids & NSAIDs contraindicated

# Aquamid Product Guidelines

Tingling, redness, swelling or other changes in the first weeks are usually sign of infection  
In the event of complications, suspect an infection - these are NOT an allergic reaction

## **Never corticosteroids**

- Complications, such as swelling, should NEVER be treated with corticosteroids or NSAIDs as they are absolutely contraindicated because they prolong recovery time

## **Treat with antibiotics (high-dose & broad spectrum)**

- Clarithromycin 500 mg + Moxifloxacin 400 mg BID, at least 10-14 days
- If no reduction after 3 days, change to Clindamycin 600 mg + Tetracyclin 500 mg BID
  - This combination may act against bacteria resistant to Clarithromycin + Moxifloxacin

## **Prophylactic antibiotics**

- If you choose to use a prophylactic treatment, the following is recommended:  
Azithromycin 500 mg + Moxifloxacin 400 mg 2 - 6 hours prior to injection



# Aquamid Abscess



Acute swelling 3 years after  
Aquamid injection



Recurrent abscess

# Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP)



# PRP: What is it?

Autologous blood plasma enriched with platelets

Degranulation release cytokines & growth factors

- Platelet-derived growth factor
- Transforming growth factor beta
- Fibroblast growth factor
- Insulin-like growth factors 1 & 2
- Vascular endothelial growth factor
- Epidermal growth factor
- Interleukin 8
- Keratinocyte growth factor
- Connective tissue growth factor

# PRP Production

- Collection of anticoagulated whole blood
- Two-stage centrifugation
- PRP separated from platelet poor plasma & RBCs
- 5-fold increase in platelet concentration
- Broad variability in production techniques

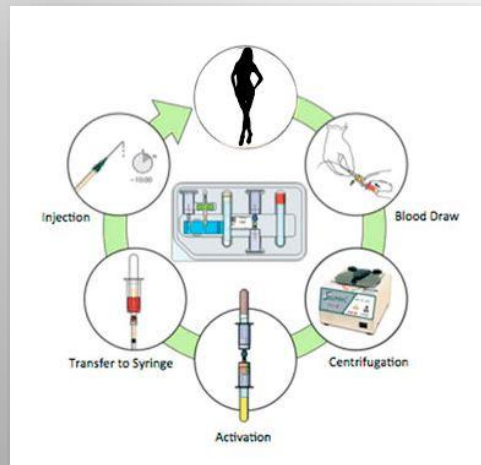


# Selphyl

PRP &  $\text{Ca}^{++}$  to activate fibrinogen to fibrin

Results in a gel matrix

Limited clinical data



**SELPHYL**®  
Platelet Rich Fibrin Matrix System

# Vampire Lift: PRP & HA Filler

The image shows a screenshot of the Vampire Facelift website. At the top, the logo "Vampire<sup>®</sup> FACELIFT" is displayed in a white, elegant script font on a dark red background. Below the logo is a navigation menu with the following items: "Home", "Vampire Research", "For Physicians", "Find Provider", and "Free Videos". Underneath the menu, the text "Vampire Facelift<sup>®</sup> Procedure Explained..." is written in a dark red font. The main content area features a video player. The video title is "Vampire Facelift<sup>®</sup> Procedure. Official Video." and it is attributed to "from Charles Runels, MD". The video player shows a close-up of a woman's face, identified as Kim Kardashian, smiling. The video player interface includes a play button, a progress bar showing "02:35", and the Vimeo logo. There are also logos for the American Cosmetic Cellular Medicine Association on either side of the video player.

PRP injected with Restylane or Juvederm

Proprietary methods

No clinical data

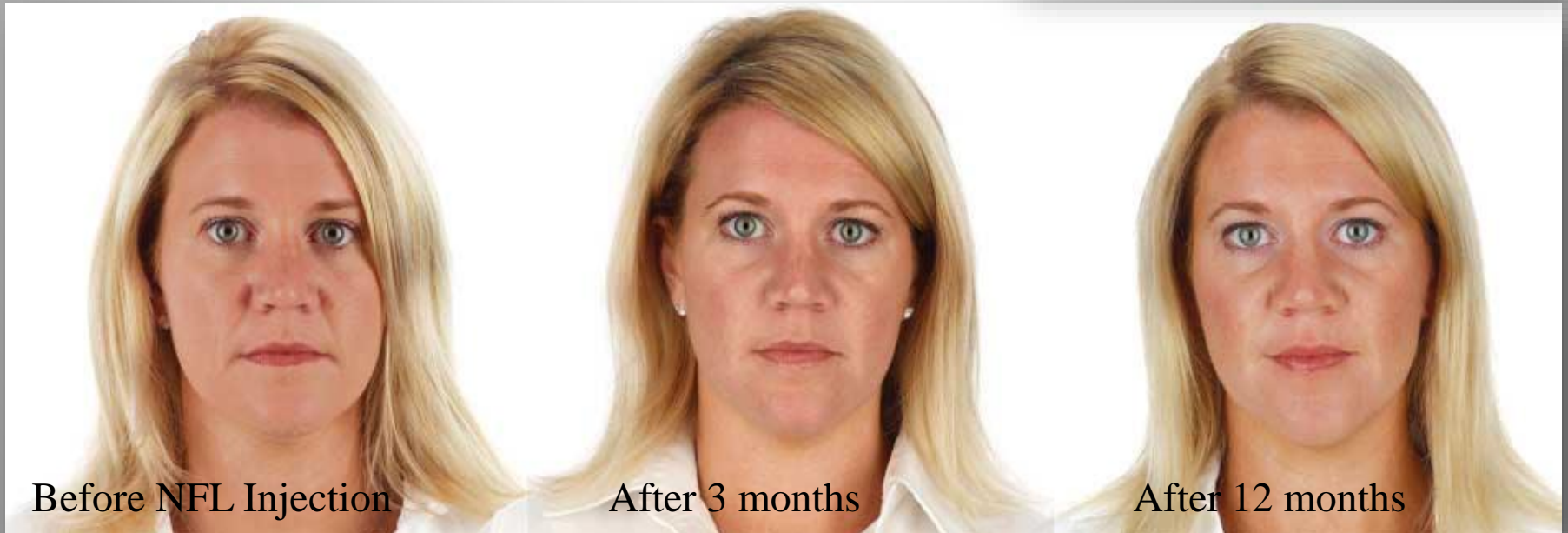
# PRP in Facial Aesthetics

- 15 adults: Single PRFM (Selphyl) injection for deep nasolabial folds
- Wrinkle Assessment Scale (WAS 1-5)
  - Reduction of  $1.1 \pm 0.7$  after 12 weeks
- No complications
- Holds potential for dermal augmentation



# PRP in Facial Aesthetics Follow Up

- 50 adults with mean 10 month follow up
- NLFs, acne scars, rhytides, volume loss
- Average 1.6 treatments (Range 1-5)
- “Most patients were satisfied”





# No Advantage in Fat Grafting for Facial Wasting

## Double-Blind Clinical Trial to Compare Autologous Fat Grafts versus Autologous Fat Grafts with PDGF: No Effect of PDGF

Joan Fontdevila, M.D., Ph.D.  
Eva Guisantes, M.D., Ph.D.  
Esteban Martínez, M.D.,  
Ph.D.  
Eduard Prades, M.D.  
Juan Berenguer, M.D.

*Barcelona, Spain*



**Background:** This work evaluates the effect of adding platelet-derived growth factor to autologous adipose tissue grafts in the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus facial lipoatrophy by means of objective measurements.

**Methods:** This is a randomized clinical trial conducted at the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona. Patients with facial human immunodeficiency virus atrophy were randomized into two groups, one treated with autologous fat injection (group A), and another treated with autologous fat injection with plasma rich in growth factors (group B). Before the treatment, structural changes were identified in facial soft tissue by means of computed tomography, and clinical changes were also assessed by means of photographic records. Posttreatment assessments were repeated after 2 and 12 months to compare the results. Post-treatment complications were recorded.

**Results:** Forty-nine patients (33 men and 16 women), with a mean age of 46 years, participated in the study. In both groups, there was a statistically significant average increase of volume in the facial area measured by computed tomography between the baseline and the 2- and 12-month posttreatment assessments. All cases showed an improvement of the clinical facial atrophy grade after treatment, which was statistically significant. This improvement was related to a statistically significant fat volume increase measured by means of computed tomography. There was no difference in the volume gain between both groups. No major complications were observed.

**Conclusions:** Fat grafting is a safe, effective, and durable treatment for human immunodeficiency virus facial atrophy. The results of this study show that it is not necessary to add plasma rich in growth factors to the adipose tissue graft to get a better result. (*Plast. Reconstr. Surg.* 134: 219e, 2014.)

**CLINICAL QUESTION/LEVEL OF EVIDENCE:** Therapeutic, II.

# > 2-Fold Volume Retention in Facial Fat Grafting

TISSUE ENGINEERING: Part C  
Volume 15, Number 00, 2009  
© Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.  
DOI: 10.1089/ten.tec.2008.0518

## Application of Platelet-Rich Plasma in Plastic Surgery: Clinical and *In Vitro* Evaluation

Valerio Cervelli, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> Pietro Gentile, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> Maria Giovanna Scioli, B.D.,<sup>2</sup> Monica Grimaldi, M.D.,<sup>1</sup>  
Carlo Umberto Casciani, M.D.,<sup>3</sup> Luigi Giusto Spagnoli, M.D.,<sup>2</sup> and Augusto Orlandi, M.D.<sup>2</sup>

The clinical use of platelet-rich plasma (PRP) for a wide variety of application has been reportedly employed most prevalently in problematic wounds, maxillofacial and hemi-facial atrophy, Romberg Syndrome, and diabetic foot ulcers. To our knowledge, PRP has never been described in the enhancement of fat grafting during tissue-engineering application *in vivo*. The authors describe the preparation of PRP and its use in a series of 43 patients who underwent plastic, reconstructive, and maxillofacial surgery for chronic lower extremity ulcers ( $n = 18$ ) and multiple facial applications ( $n = 25$ ). PRP mixed with fat grafting was used in 76% patients affected by multiple facial diseases and in 88.9% patients affected by lower extremity ulcers. PRP injection alone was used in the remaining patients. The authors observed that after a 7.1-week and 9.7-week (average) course of twice-daily wound treatment with PRP suspended on a collagen base, 61.1% and 88.9% of chronic lower extremity ulcers underwent to 100% reepithelization compared with 40% and 60% of controls ( $n = 10$ ) treated with hyaluronic acid and collagen medication. In patients treated with reconstructing three-dimensional projection of face by fat grafting and PRP, we observed a 70% maintenance of contour restoring and three-dimensional volume after 1 year compared to only 31% of controls ( $n = 10$ ) treated with fat grafting alone. *In vitro*, PRP induced a significant increase in the number of adipose-tissue-derived stem cells compared to control cultures. These results documented that PRP accelerates chronic skin ulcer reepithelization and improves maintenance and function of fat graft in patients who underwent plastic reconstructive surgery, possibly by stimulating adipose-tissue-derived stem cell proliferation.

# PRP Clinical Conclusions

- May enhance tissue graft survival
- May improve selected wound healing
- No evidence of enhanced injury repair
- Limited support for facial aesthetic uses
  
- Variability in PRP activation & processing limits reproducibility of results

# Stem Cell Fillers

## Patient Safety

### ASAPS and ASPS Issue Joint Position Statement on Stem Cells and Fat Grafting

**Stem cells in aesthetic surgery promising, but marketing claims are too far ahead of the science**

Boston, MA (May 9, 2011) – A joint task force of the two leading plastic surgery associations, the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS) and the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), today released a position statement on the use of stem cells in aesthetic surgery during The Aesthetic Meeting 2011, the annual meeting of ASAPS. Based on a systematic review of the peer-reviewed literature, the task force concluded that

**NO clinical studies support stem cell use in plastic surgery**

Technique

# Factors in Unfavorable Outcomes

- Patient selection
- Undertreatment
- Anatomic site
- Product selection
- Technique
- Judgment (overfill/under correction)
- Patient expectations
- Tissue damage

# Assessment Scale to Set Expectation

## Wrinkle Scale

Grade 1 ~ 0.3 cc per side

Grade 2 ~ 0.6 cc per side

Grade 3 ~ 0.6 cc per side

Grade 4 ~ 1.0 cc per side

Grade 5 ~ 1.0 cc per side



**How severe is the crease**

**How much filler is needed**

**What result to expect**

# Tricks to Demonstrate Effect

**Use of Xylocaine to Predict the Effect of Neuromodulators**





# Tricks to Demonstrate Effect

## Use of Saline to Predict the Outcome of Filler Injections



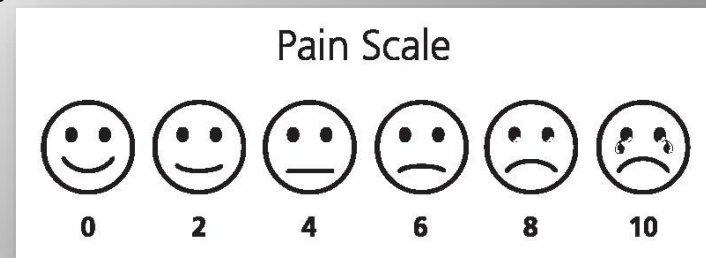
# Patient Comfort

Minimize discomfort, redness, swelling, bruising

- Filler viscosity
  - Thicker HAs (Restylane) & CaHA (Radiesse) more pain
- Needle caliber
  - CaHA needs at least 27G needle
  - PLLA at least a 25G to 27G needle
- Anatomical site
  - Perioral, periocular & lip more painful than NLF
- Pre & postinjection cooling packs for 5 to 10 min

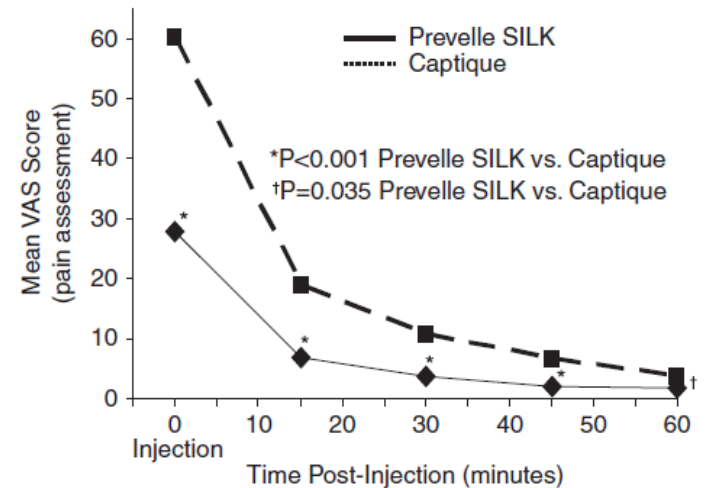
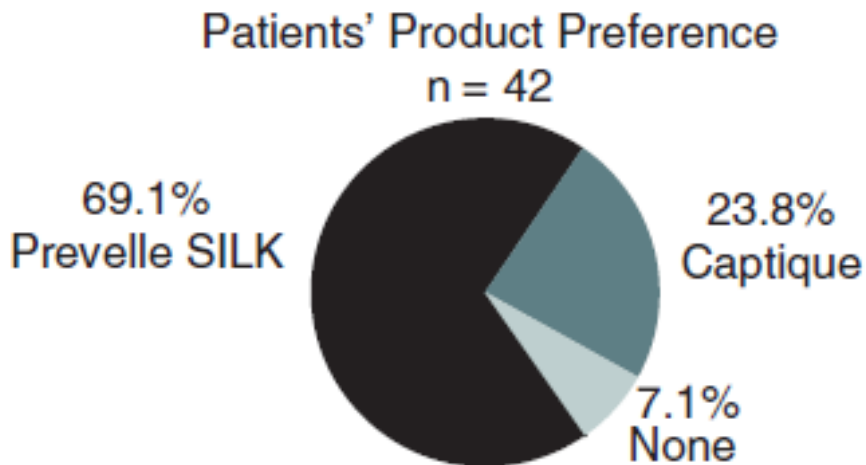
# Patient Comfort

- No anesthetic
- Topical cooling
- Topical anesthetic
  - Applied 30 – 60 min before injection
  - Occlusive dressings (Tegaderm)
  - Injection pain may be experienced deeper than level of effect
- Injection site block
  - 0.3 cc 1% lidocaine + epi with 32G needle
- Nerve blocks
  - Infraorbital nerve: NLF & upper lip
  - Mental nerve: lower lip & marionette lines
  - May cause tissue distortion



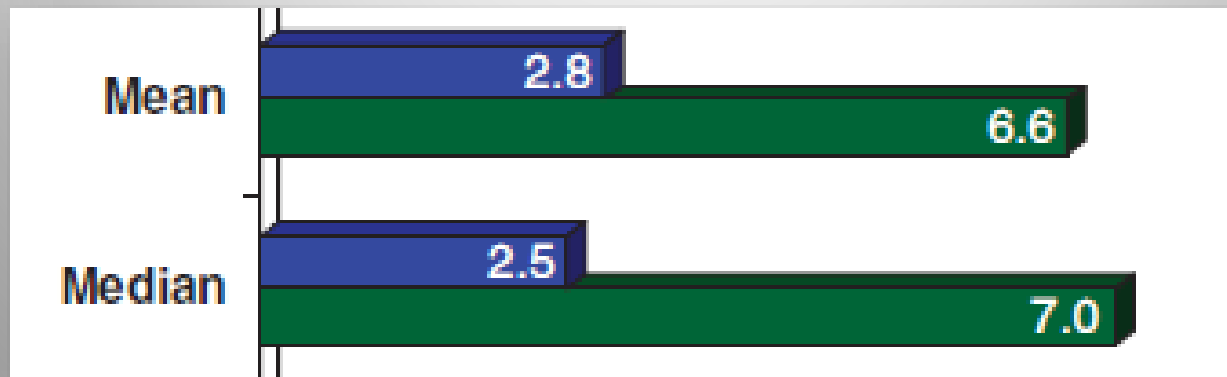
# Hyaluronic Acids + Lidocaine

- Patient-blinded, prospective, randomized, split-face design
- HA + lidocaine (Prevelle SILK) vs no lidocaine (Captique)
- 50% less pain with lidocaine than without
- No difference in NLF outcome after 2 weeks



# Calcium Hydroxylapatite + Lidocaine

- Calcium hydroxylapatite (CaHA, Radiesse)
- Prospective, randomized, split-face, single-blinded
- CaHA vs CaHA + 0.2 cc 2% lidocaine for NLF
  - Can premix day in advance
- 4 point reduction in pain at time of injection

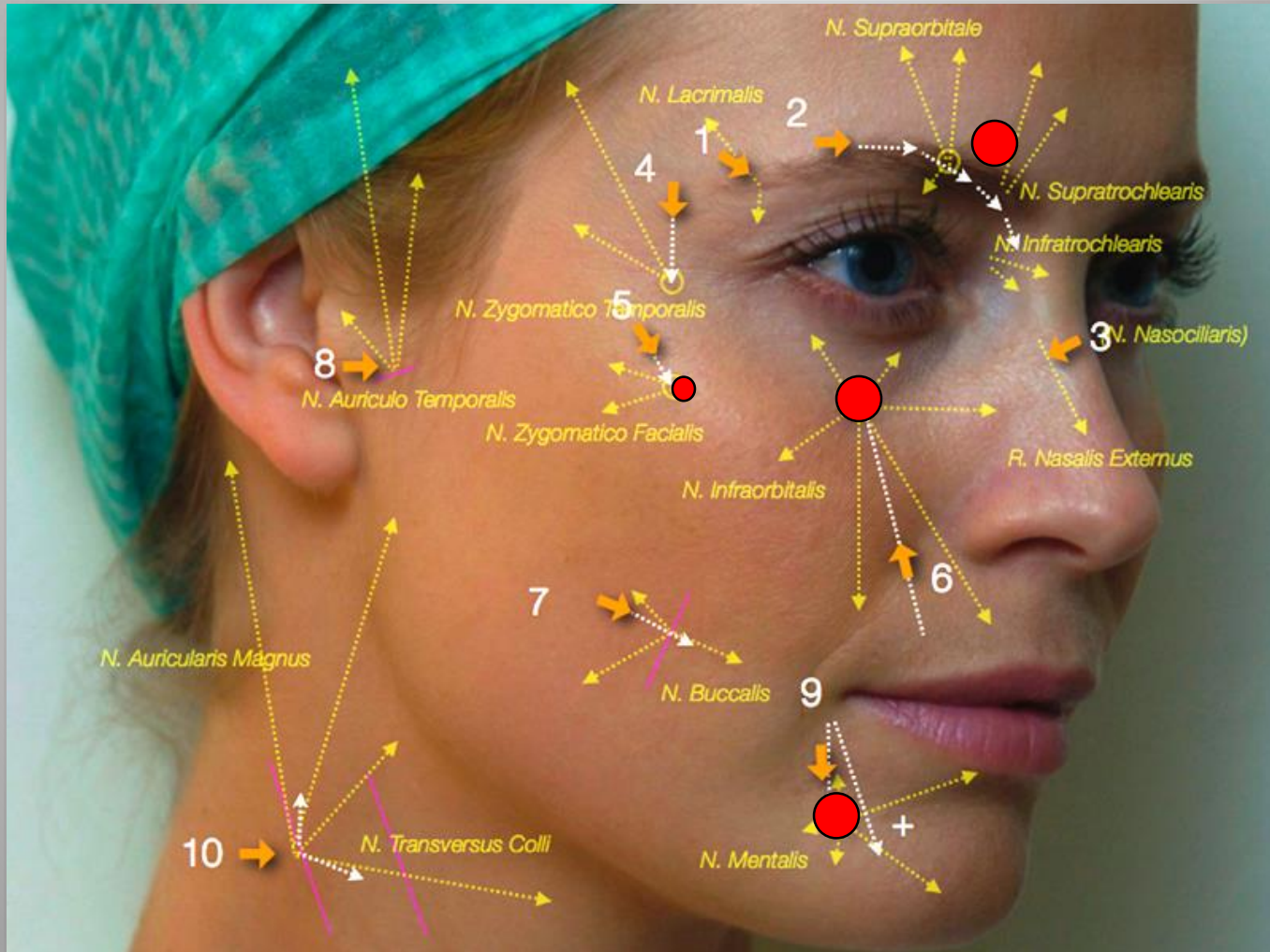


# Basic Set Up

+ Gloves



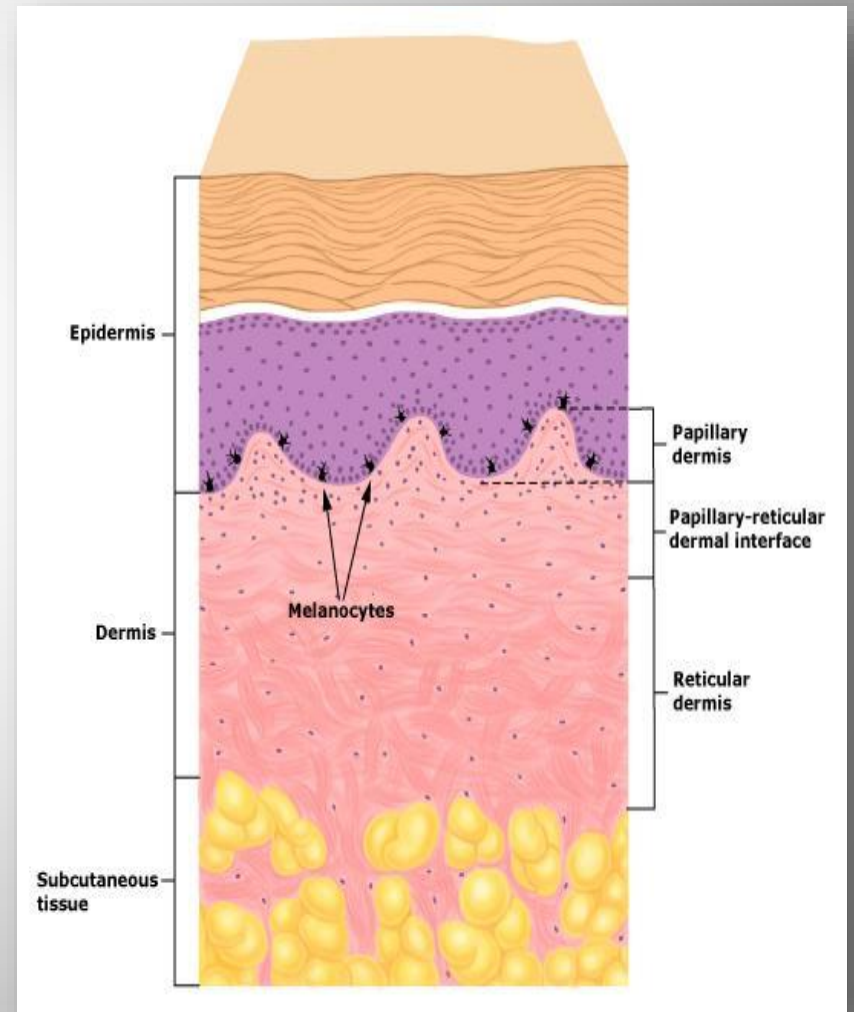
# Block & Tackle the Face



# Injection Technique

## Target the correct level

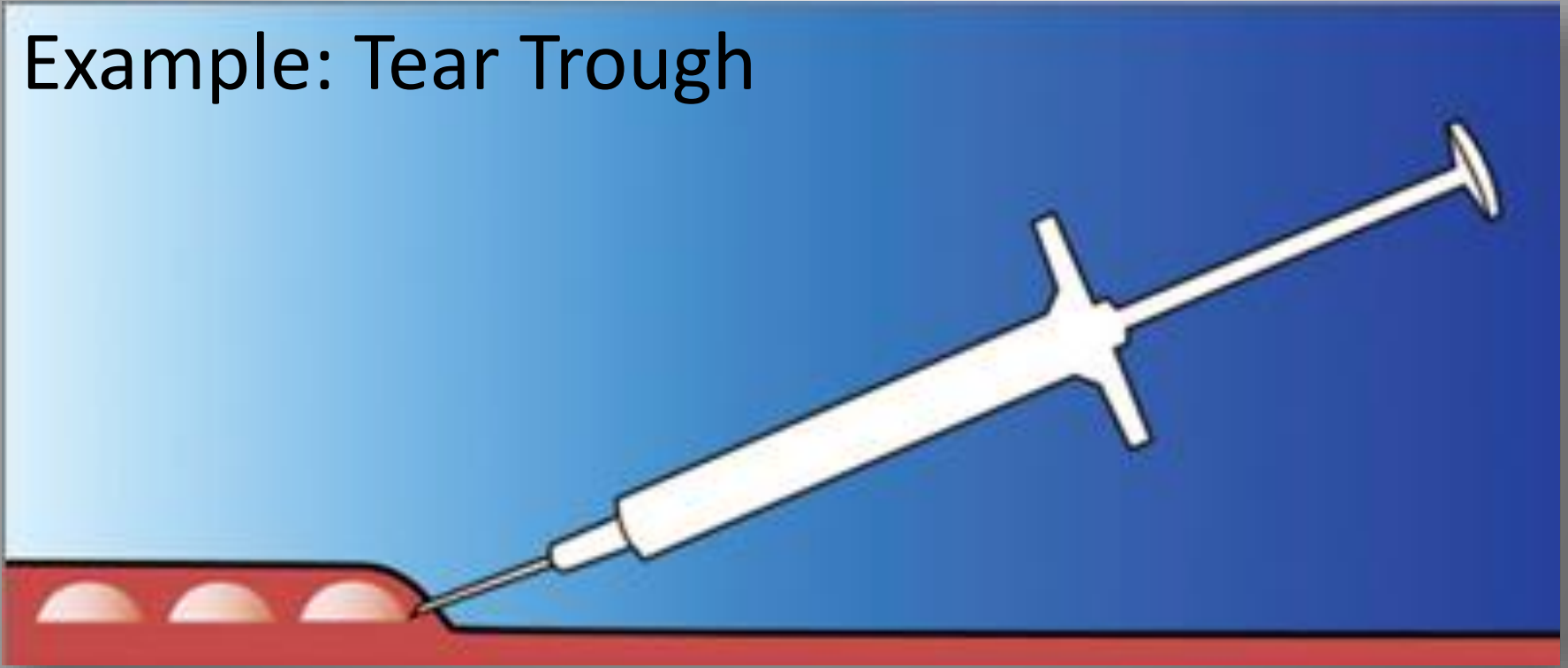
- Mid to deep dermis
  - Low  $G'$  HAs
- Subcutaneous
  - PLLA, CaHA, PMMA
  - Higher  $G'$  HAs
- Deep/preperiosteal
  - High  $G'$  HAs, CaHA





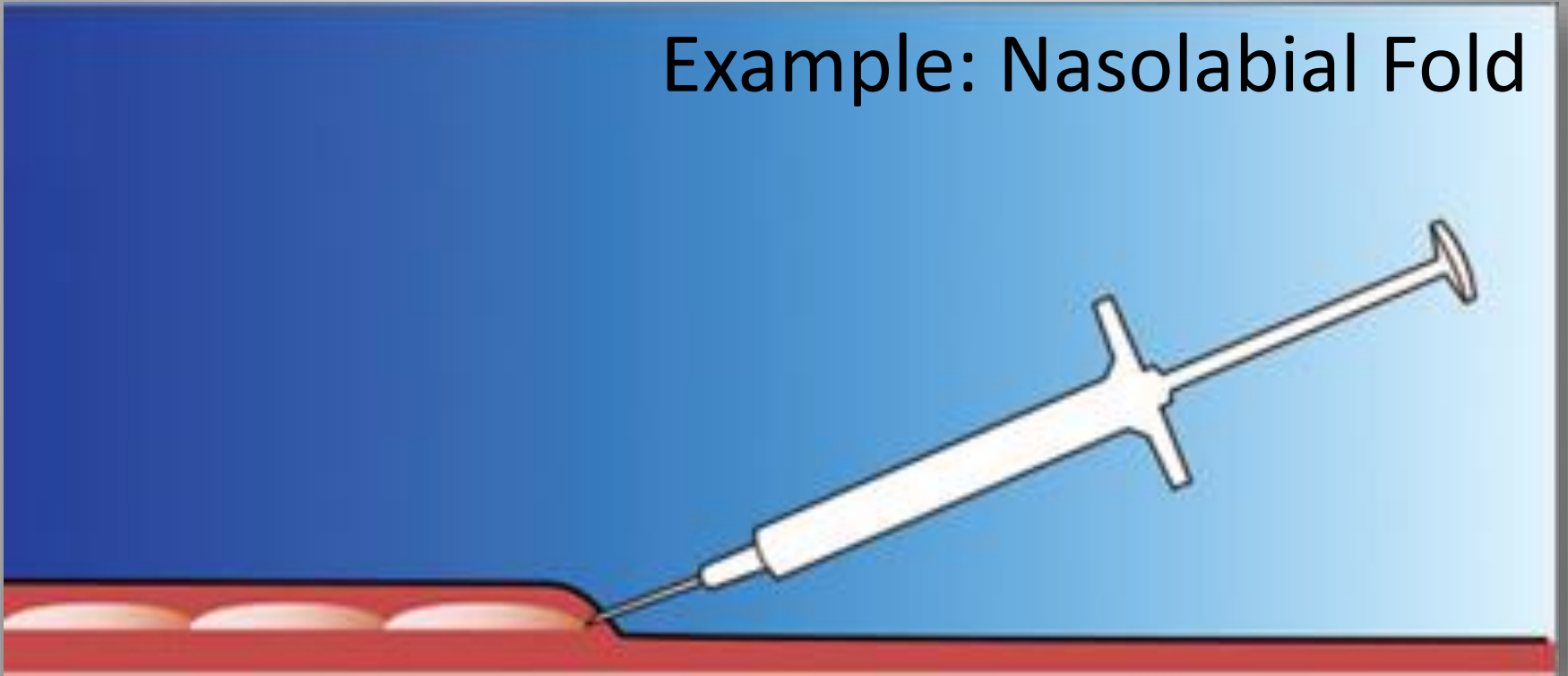
# Serial Puncture

Example: Tear Trough

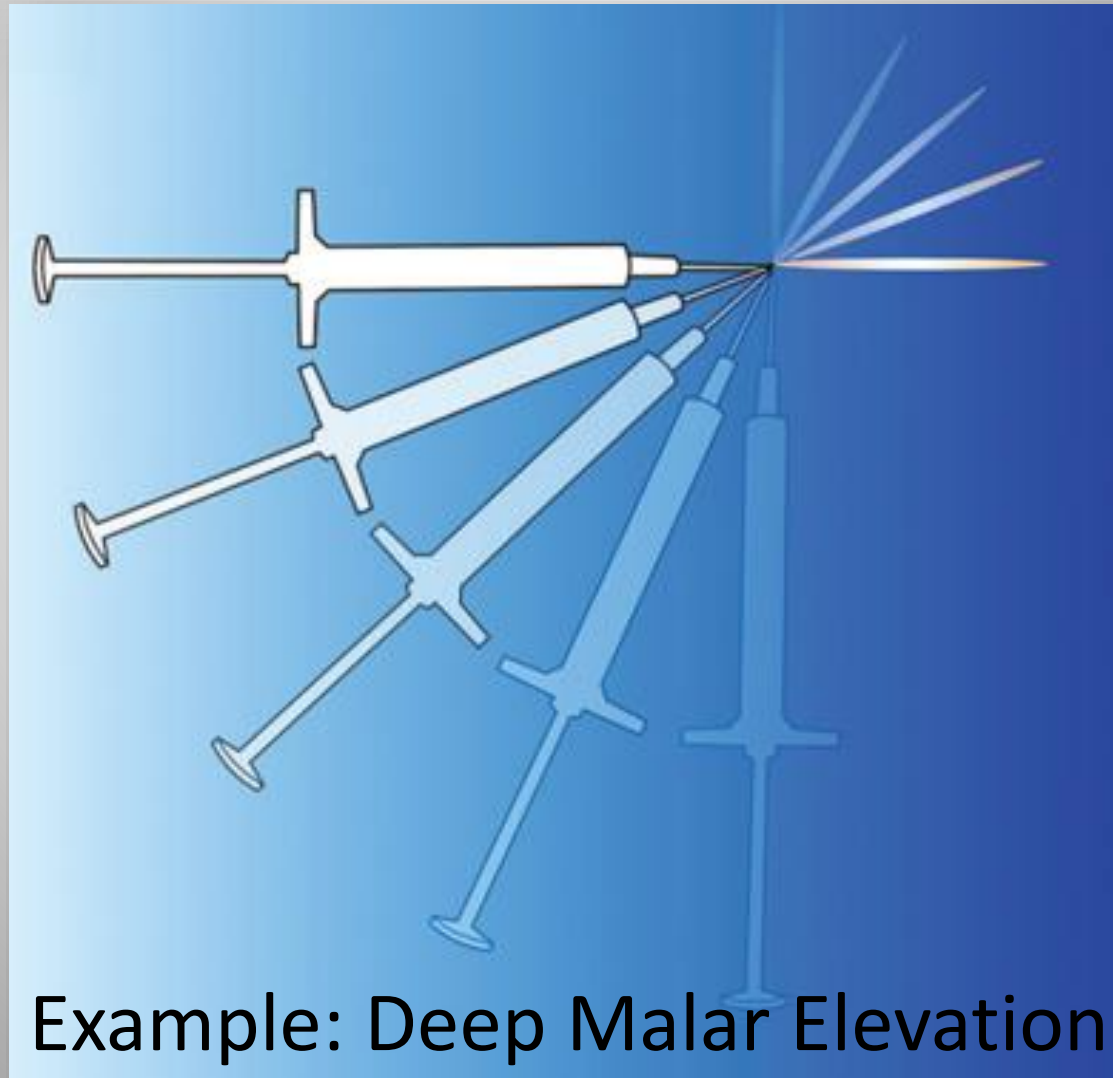


# Linear Threading

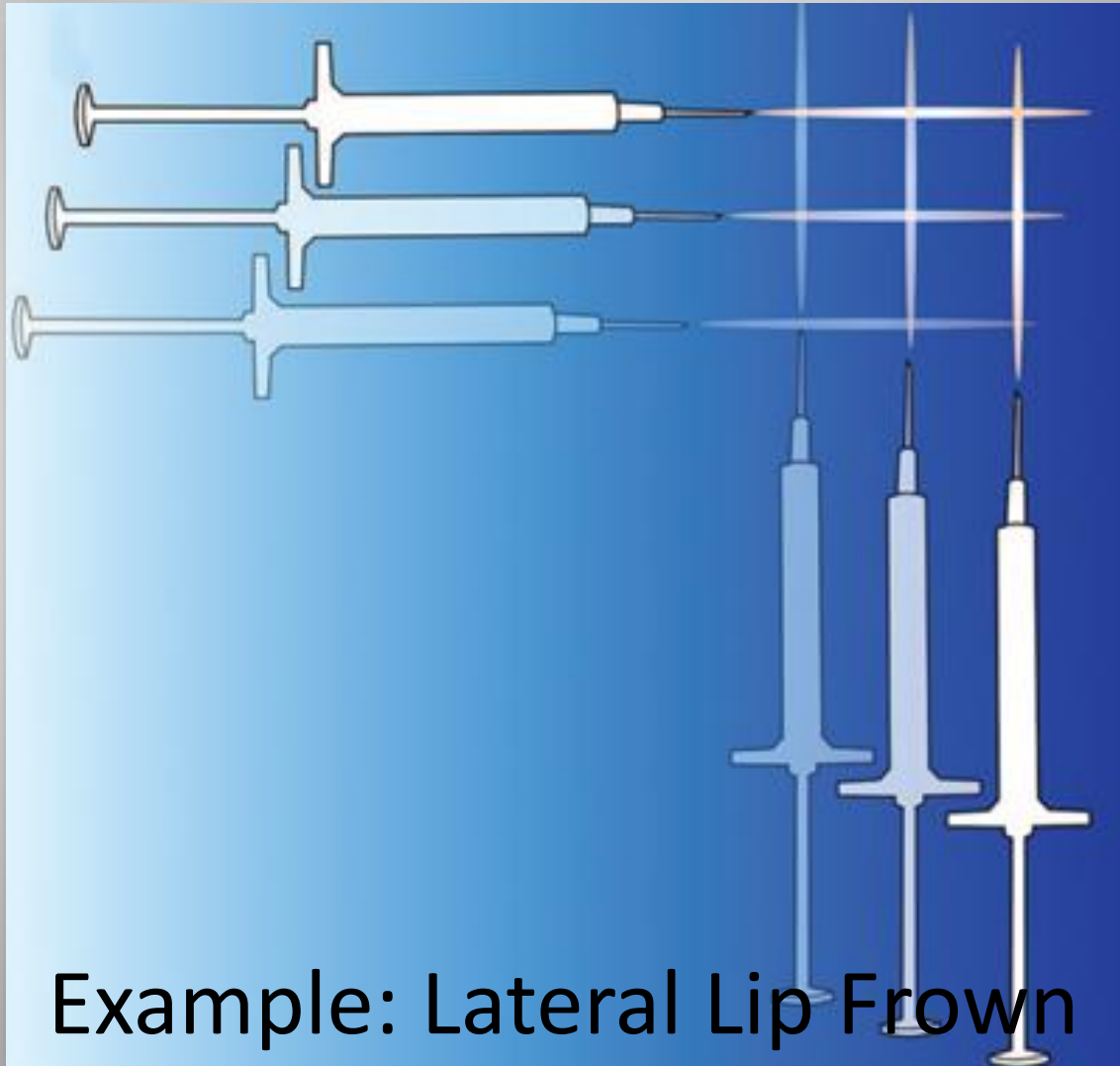
Example: Nasolabial Fold



# Fanning

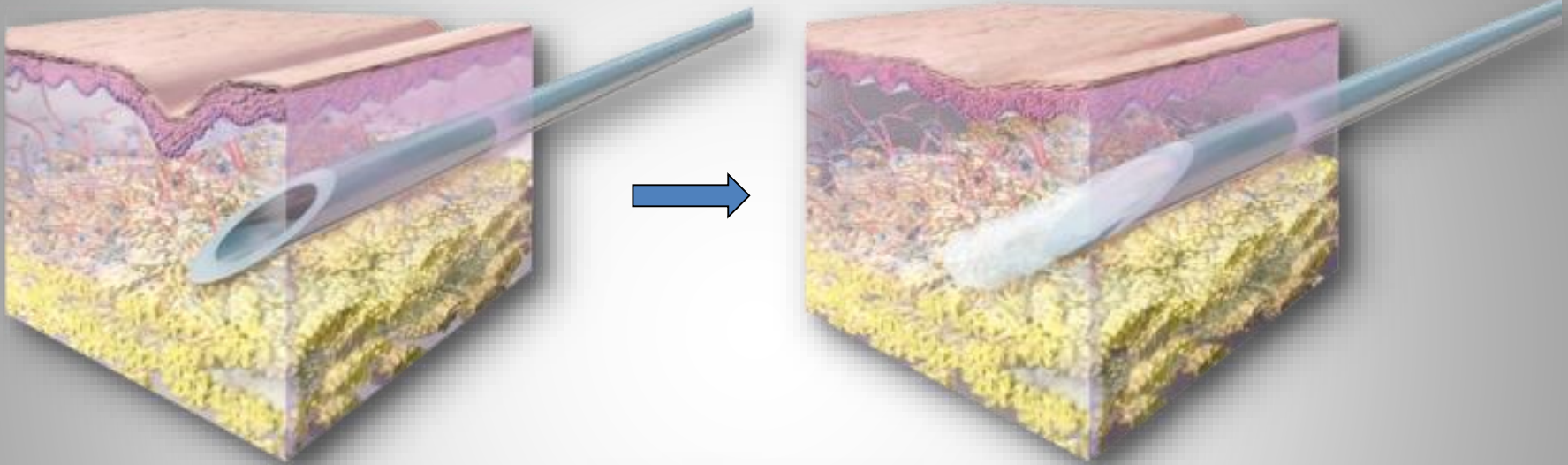


# Cross Hatching

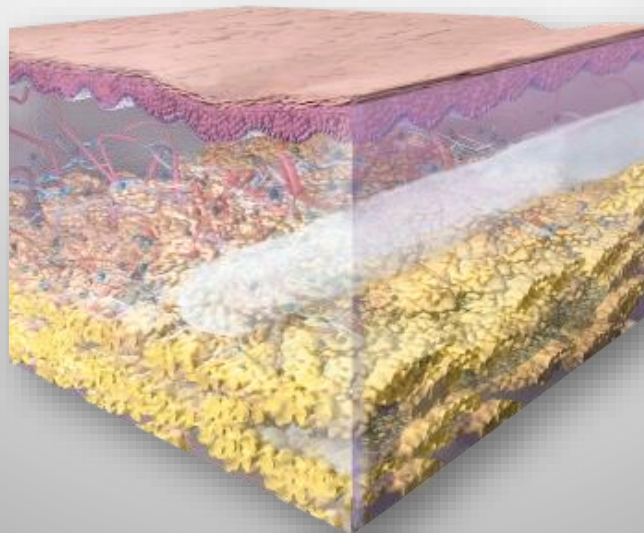


Example: Lateral Lip Frown

# Tunneling or Linear Threading



Placement at  
dermal/subdermal  
junction



# Proper Dermal Injection

Too Superficial



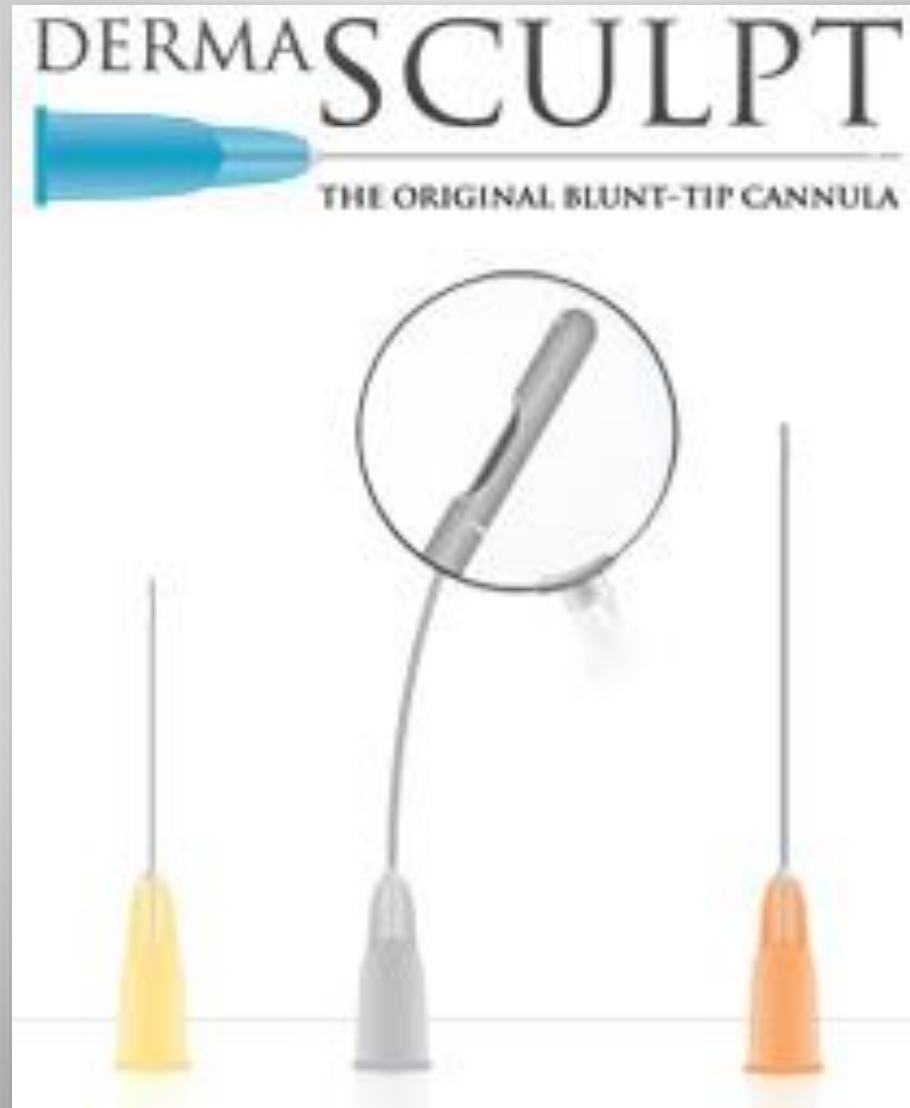
Too Deep



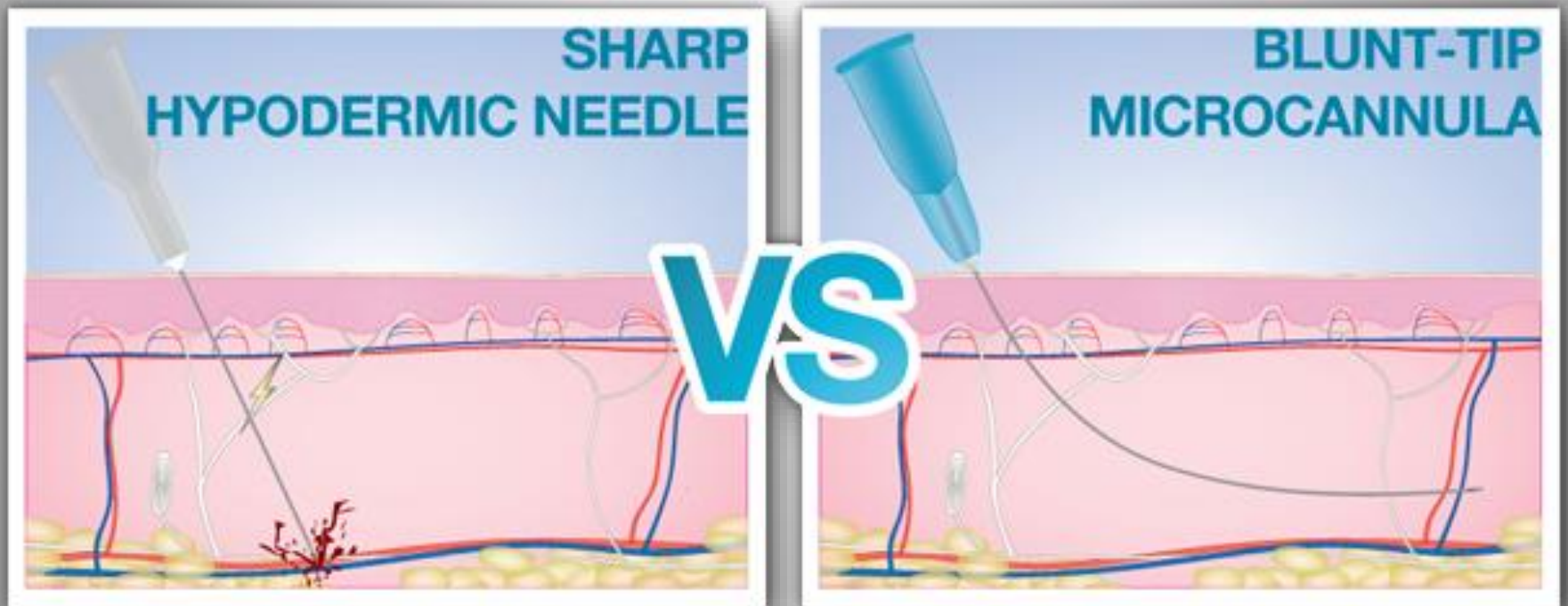
Correct Placement



# Blunt Injection Cannulas



# Blunt Injection Cannulas





# Blunt Injection Cannulas

Safety and effectiveness of injection of calcium hydroxylapatite via blunt cannula compared to injection by needle for correction of nasolabial folds

Kenneth R Beer, MD

*Esthetic, General & Surgical Dermatology, West Palm Beach, FL, USA*

- 20 patients – split face (not enough for adverse events)
- Needle side had more pain, redness, swelling
- Cannula side had better correction at 19 days



# Results

Filler or Fat?

# Hollow Temples

Lower Lids & Tear Troughs

**Proceed with Caution**

# Tear Trough & Lower Lids

- Inject on periosteum
- Expect edema & ecchymosis
- Under correct
  - Touch up in 2 weeks
- Prolonged edema
  - Treat early
  - Hyaluronidase
- May persist for years

**Not for novice injectors**

Malar & Cheek

**Best Bang for the Buck**

# Malar Injections Improve Nasolabial Folds

A randomized comparison of the efficacy of low volume deep placement cheek injection vs. mid- to deep dermal nasolabial fold injection technique for the correction of nasolabial folds

Molly Goodier, BS,<sup>1</sup> Kendra Elm, BS,<sup>1</sup> Irmina Wallander, BA,<sup>1</sup> Brian Zelickson, MD,<sup>1,2</sup> & Sarah Schram, MD<sup>1,2</sup>

- Does NLF need direct injection?
- Can cheek injection improve NLF?
- Split face HA (Juvederm Ultra Plus)
- Similar improvements at low volume injections
  - Average 0.6 cc per injection site



# Injection Areas



NLF injection

Mid-lateral  
cheek injection

# Improved Nasolabial Folds



Before & After: R NLF injection, L cheek injections

# Improved Nasolabial Folds



Before & After: R NLF & cheek injection, L cheek injections

# Malar & Cheeks

- Malar
  - High G' (Radiesse or Lyft, Bellafill for long-term)
  - 0.1 cc needle bolus at 2-4 points on periosteum at malar prominence
  - Massage & shape to desired form
- Cheeks
  - Moderate to high G' blunt cannula injection
  - Subcutaneous fanning or cross-hatching
- Treat before nasolabial folds

# Nasolabial Folds

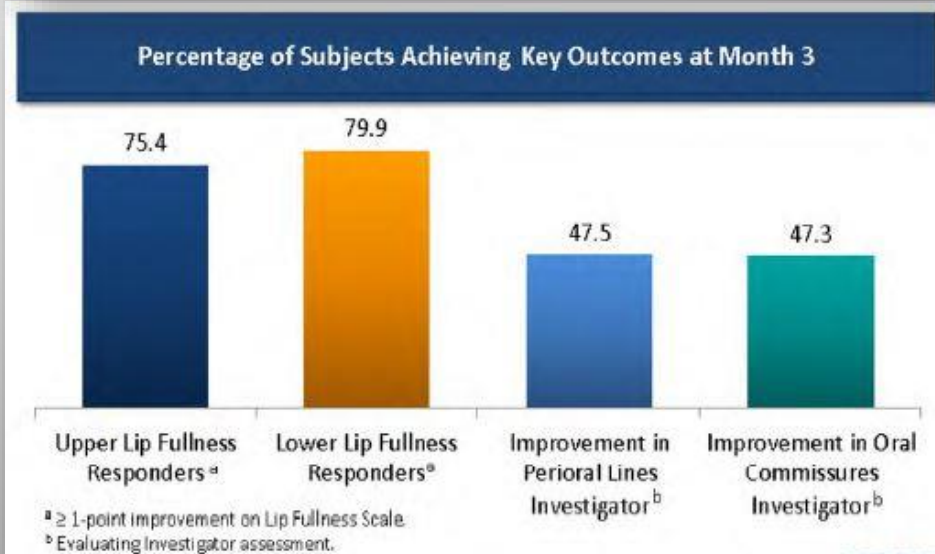
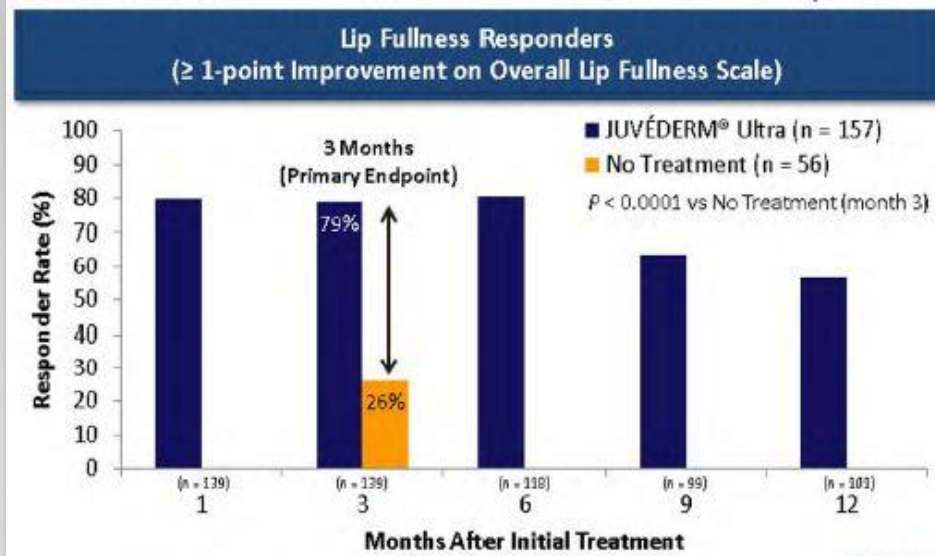
## After Malar Correction

# Lips & Perioral

# Juvederm Ultra XC for Lips

- Previous indication
  - Mid to deep dermis, facial wrinkles & folds
- Has lidocaine
- Single blinded MC-RCT
  - 157 Juvederm patients + 56 controls (then crossed over)
  - Touch up at 2-4 weeks if needed
  - Validated 5 point scale
  - **Total volume (initial + touch up): 2.1 cc**
    - Upper lip 0.9 cc      Lower lip 0.7 cc
    - Upper lip lines 0.2 cc   Lower lip lines 0.1 cc
    - Oral commissure 0.4 cc

# Juvederm Ultra XC for Lips



Lasts up to 1 year  
Lip Improvement  
3 Months - 79%  
1 year - 78%

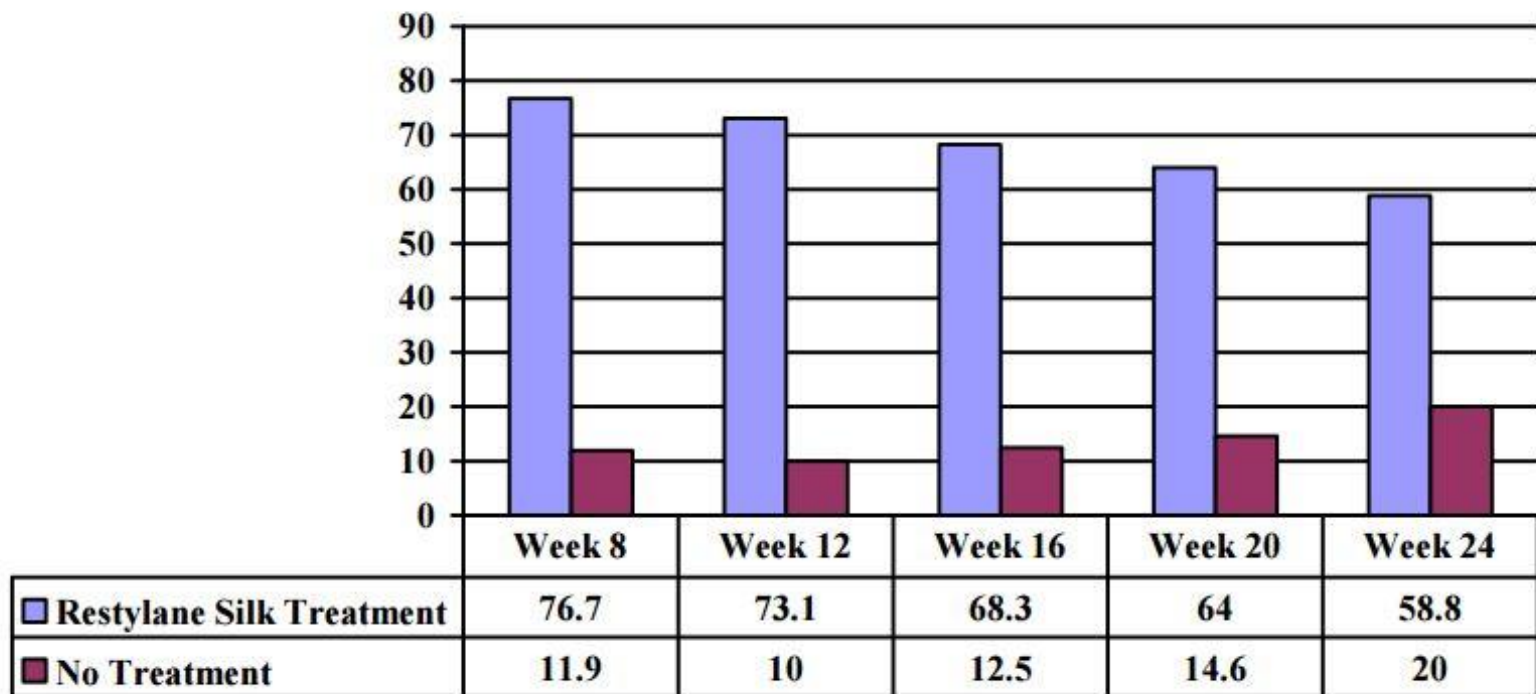


# Restylane Silk Approval

- RCT 221 subjects at 14 centers
- Effectiveness:  $\geq 1$  grade improvement
- Injection volume
  - Upper & lower lip: Mean 2.2 cc
  - Perioral lines: Mean 0.5 cc

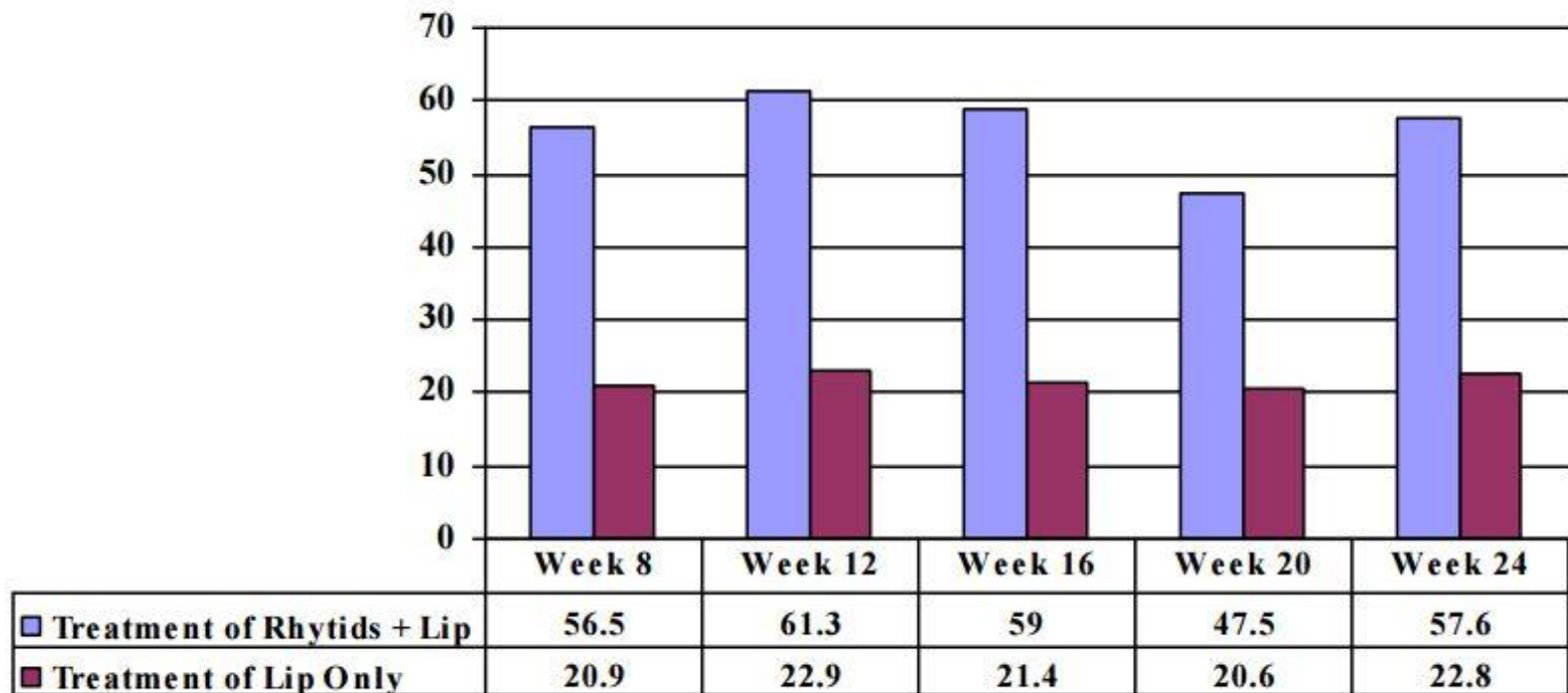
# Restylane Silk Approval: Lips

**Proportion (%) of MLFS Responders Measured by the Blinded Evaluator  
(Upper and Lower Lip Combined)**



# Restylane Silk Approval: Perioral Lines

**Proportion (%) of Responders Measured by the Blinded Evaluator  
for Upper Perioral Rhytids**



Jaw Line & Pre Jowl Sulcus

**Small Volume, Big Result**

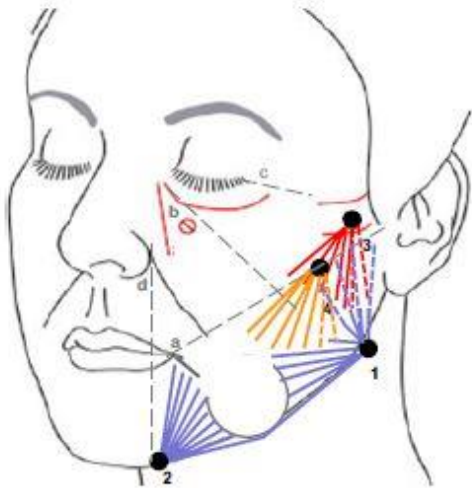
# Jawline Enhancement

## Calcium hydroxylapatite for jawline rejuvenation: consensus recommendations

Jean-Marie Dallara, MD,<sup>1</sup> Martine Baspeyras, MD,<sup>2</sup> Patrick Bui, MD,<sup>3</sup> Hugues Cartier, MD,<sup>4</sup> Marie-Hélène Charavel, MD,<sup>5</sup> & Laurent Dumas, MD<sup>6</sup>

- Diminish effects of jowls on jawline
- Caution with “full” and “square” faces
- Consider saline injection test

# Jawline Enhancement



**Point 1:** Mandibular angle  
**Point 2:** Prejowl sulcus  
**Point 3 +/- 4:** Posterior cheek vector

**If necessary after further evaluation:**

**Point 5:** Cheek bone  
**Point 6:** Mid-cheek groove

Line a: Labial commissure – Tragus  
Line b: Mid-cheek groove  
Line c: External cantus – border of the superior zygomatic arch (2.5 cm)  
Line d: Vertical line descending from the outer edge of the nostril



Before & After 4.5 cc (total)  
3 Syringes for face

Nose

**Proceed with Caution**

# Hands

**Why Stop at the Face?**



# Aging Hands



# Treating Age Spots



# Hand Rejuvenation

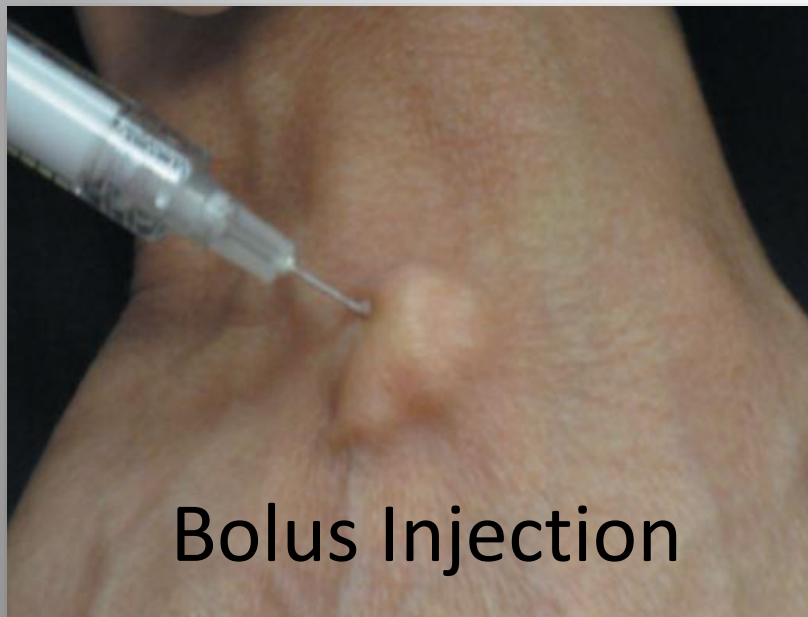


# Hand Augmentation

**Hand recontouring with calcium hydroxylapatite (Radiesse)®**

**Kenneth L Edelson, MD, FAACS**

*Private practice, New York City*



FDA panel approval for Radiesse 2015

# Radiesse for Hands

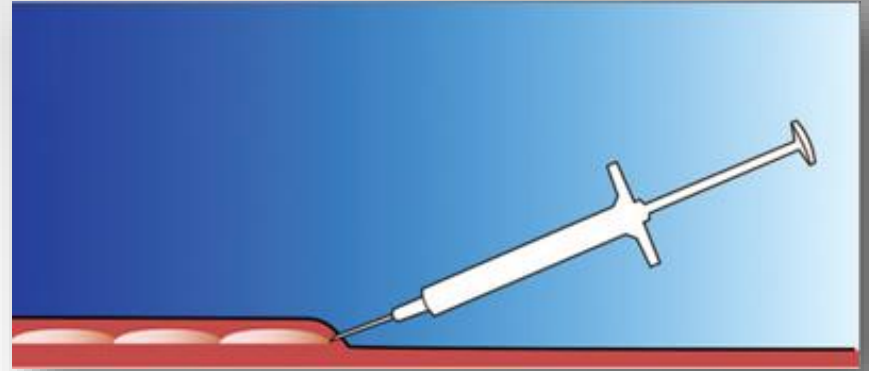
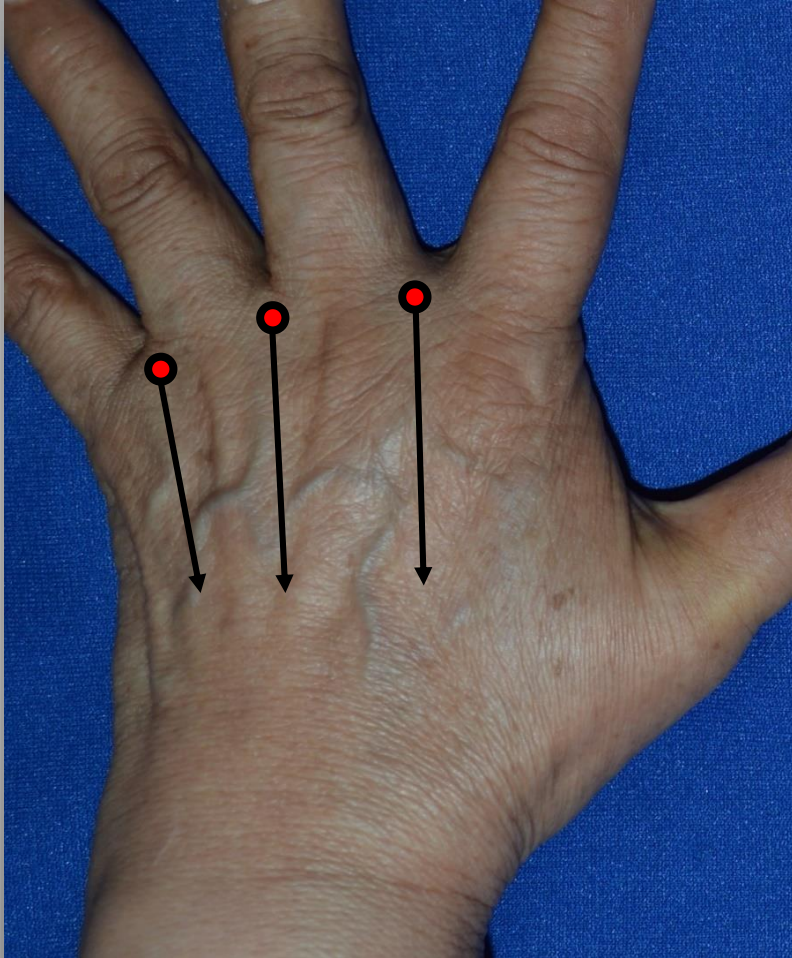
## RCT at 6 sites

- 85 patients, maximum 3 cc Radiesse per hand
- Mean age: 53-54 years
  - Mostly white females
- 3 months
  - 75% had  $\geq 1$  point improvement (vs 3.4% of controls)
  - 76% rated “much” or “very much improved”
- Lasts up to 1 year
  - Some had retreatment
- Has lidocaine

# Aging Hand



# Aging Hand



**High G'**  
**Blunt cannula**  
**Linear threading**  
**Massage to position**

# Restore Dorsal Hand Fullness



Before and after 1.5 cc **Radiesse** to dorsum (FDA Approved)



# Restore Dorsal Hand Fullness



Before and after 1.5 cc **Radiesse** to dorsum (FDA Approved)

# Fat Graft Dorsal Volumization



Before and 6 months after **Fat Grafting** to dorsum

# Fat Graft Dorsal Volumization



Before and 6 months after **Fat Grafting** to dorsum

# Ultherapy Over Filler

## Microfocused Ultrasound With Visualization and Fillers for Increased Neocollagenesis: Clinical and Histological Evaluation

GABRIELA CASABONA, MD,\* AND NICEO MICHALANY, PhD†

Can MFUS interact with subcutaneous filler?

- Single patient with Voluma & Radiesse
- No negative effect seen on histology
- Enhanced collagen & elastin

# Realistic Expectations!

**YOU SHALL NOT AGE!**

**ITS A SYRINGE, NOT A MAGIC WAND**

# Complications

# The Itinerant Patient

- Patient with unknown filler administered elsewhere (or abroad) requests “touch-up”
  - Additional HA can introduce bacteria & activate biofilm
  - Original filler material may be unknown (unapproved)
  - May have had more than 1 product used
- Results in complex evaluation & treatment plan
  - Patient perception: “It was just some injections...”

# Filler Complication Categories

Immediate Onset (0 – 2 Days)

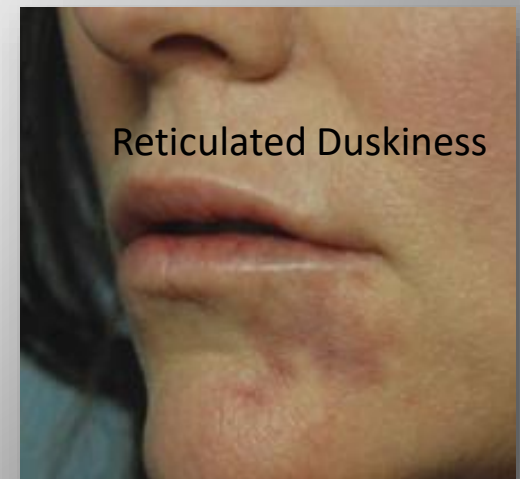
Early Onset (3 – 14 Days)

Delayed Onset (> 14 Days)



# Immediate Complications

- Over or Under Correction
- Implant Visibility
  - Injection too superficial
    - **HA** blue discoloration
      - Massage, Hyaluronidase
    - Particulate fillers (**CaHA, PMM**) white bumps
      - Needle unroofing & evacuation
- Vascular Compromise
  - Glabella most common?



# Glabellar Vascular Compromise



5 days after HA injection

# Glabellar Vascular Compromise



12 days after HA injection

# Glabella Vascular Compromise



# Vascular Compromise

	<i>Arterial Occlusion</i>	<i>Venous Occlusion</i>
Presentation	Immediate or early, blanching, severe pain	Delayed, dull pain, dark discoloration
Management	Stop injection, attempt aspiration Massage Warm compresses 2% nitroglycerin paste*  Injection of hyaluronidase (if caused by HA product) Antibiotic therapy (topical, parenteral, or both) in cases of skin breakdown Conservative debridement Frequent follow-up	Massage Warm compresses 2% nitroglycerin paste* Injection of hyaluronidase (if caused by hyaluronic acid product) Consider hyperbaric oxygen in cases of impending massive skin necrosis Antibiotic therapy (topical, parenteral, or both) in cases of skin breakdown Conservative debridement Frequent follow-up
Prevention	Informed consent Smallest possible needle Smallest possible volume injected Proper plane of injection	Informed consent Smallest possible needle Smallest possible volume injected Proper plane of injection

# Early Onset Complications

- Temporary nodules
- Persistent nodules
  - Non inflammatory
  - Inflammatory
    - Fluctuant vs nonfluctuant
    - Treat as infection
- Angioedema

# Delayed Onset Complications

- Persistent nodules
  - Non inflammatory
  - Inflammatory
    - Fluctuant vs nonfluctuant
    - Treat as infection
- May develop into chronic problem
  - Abscess, tissue loss
- Persistent malar swelling

# Case Example 1

## **42 year old female**

- HA (Restylane) injection for acne scars
- 3 hours later - white patch over injection site
- What do you do?



# Case Example 1

## 42 year old female

- HA (Restylane) injection for acne scars
- 3 hours later - white patch over injection site
- What do you do?
  - Nitropaste
  - Warm compressed
  - Hyaluronidase

**Immediate blanching upon injection or delayed reticulated duskiness after injection can identify impending necrosis**

# Case Example 1

## 42 year old female

- HA (Restylane) injection for acne scars
- 3 hours later - white patch over injection site
- 4 days later - skin slough
- Now what?



# Case Example 1

## 42 year old female

- HA (Restylane) injection for acne scars
- 3 hours later - white patch over injection site
- 4 days later - skin slough
- Conservative skin care  
+ Hydroquinone



# Case Example 2

## 46 year old female

- Multiple HA\* injections to lower eyelids over 3 years
- 1 month later developed periorbital swelling
- Allergy testing negative
- What now?



\* Restylane & Juvederm

# Case Example 2

## 46 year old female

- Multiple HA\* injections to lower eyelids over 3 years
- 1 month later developed periorbital swelling
- Allergy testing negative
- What now?    **15 units Hyaluronidase per lower lid**



\* Restylane & Juvederm

# Persistent HA

## Restylane persisting in lower eyelids for 5 years

Steven H Dayan, MD, FACS,<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> John P Arkins, BS,<sup>4</sup> & Michael Somenek, MD<sup>2</sup>



After 5 years, fullness resolved 2 weeks after  
60U hyaluronidase injected per side

# HA Migration

## Delayed Migration of Hyaluronic Acid Fillers: A New Complication?

- 3 patients with tear trough injections resulting in inferior migration years later
- Resolved with hyaluronidase



# Case Example 2

## Lessons Learned from Infraorbital Filler Injections

- Volume replacement is challenging
- Higher potential for complications
- Eyelid skin is unforgiving (produces lumps & bumps)
- Superficial injections produce persistent fullness
- Careful injection technique (small amounts deep)
- Variable longevity in this location
- **Unpredictable edema**



# Case Example 3

## **67 year old female**

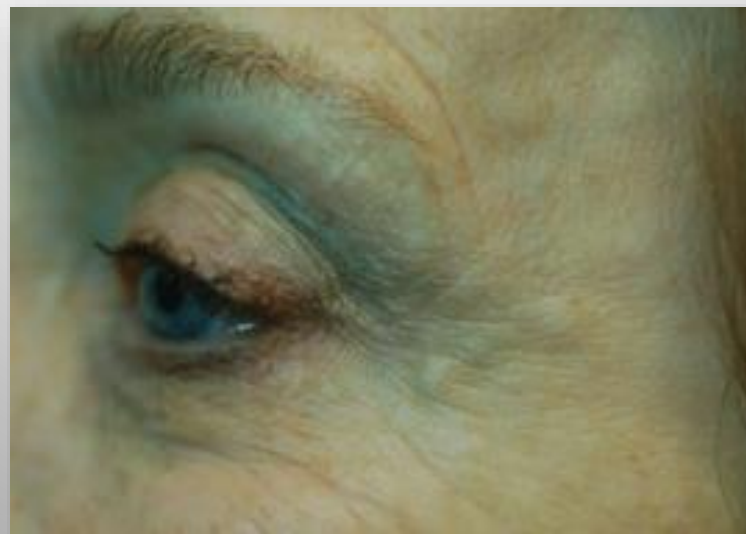
- 1 vial (in 5cc) PLLA (Sculptra) injected
- Palpable nodules 10 months later
- What now?



# Case Example 3

## 67 year old female

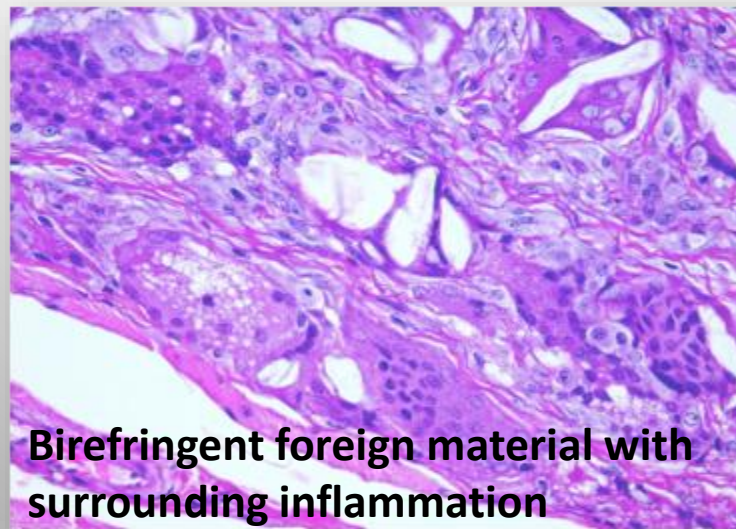
- 1 vial (in 5cc) PLLA (Sculptra) injected
- Palpable nodules 10 months later
- Steroid injection  $\implies$  No Effect



# Case Example 3

## 67 year old female

- 1 vial (in 5cc) PLLA (Sculptra) injected
- Palpable nodules 10 months later
- Steroid injection → No Effect → Excision



**Birefringent foreign material with surrounding inflammation**

# Case Example 3

## Lessons Learned from PLLA Injections

- Use higher dilution (8-10cc per vial)
- Dilute 3-5 days in advance
- Inject in deep plane
- Subperiosteal periorbital injection
- Frequent massage



# Sculptra Nodules

- Inject saline
- 5-FU
- Kenalog

# Case Example 4

## 64 year old female

- Multiple HA injections in NLF
- What is this?



# Case Example 4

## 64 year old female

- Multiple HA injections in NLF
- What is this?      **Tyndall Effect** (Blue discoloration)



# Case Example 4

## **64 year old female**

- Multiple HA injections in NLF
- How to treat?





# Case Example 4

## 64 year old female

- Multiple HA injections in NLF
- How to treat?    **15 units Hyaluronidase**



# Case Example 4

## Lessons Learned from HA Injections

- Superficial injections can be visible
- Small volume injections, evaluate & re-inject if needed
- Hyaluronidase
  - 10 to 30 units (4 to 7 days to effect)
  - Local skin reactions common
    - **Amphadase** (bovine - skin test)
    - **Hyalenex** (r-human)
    - **Vitraxe** (ovine - skin test)

# Case Example 5

## **51 year old female**

- Pain, redness & swelling 2 weeks after HA injection
- Firm without fluctuance
- Treatment?



# Case Example 5

## 51 year old female

- Pain, redness & swelling 2 weeks after HA injection
- Firm without fluctuance
- Cellulitis, no abscess
  - Antibiotics x 6 weeks
  - Minocycline + clarithromycin



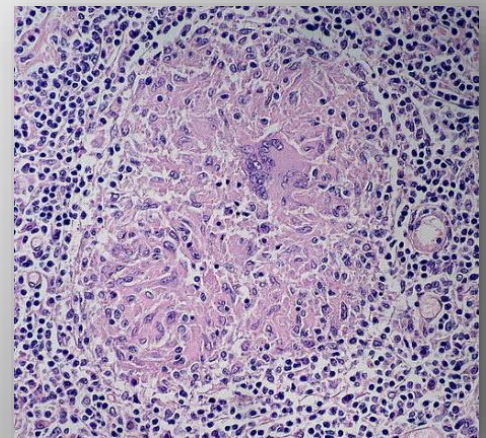
# Case Example 5

## Lessons Learned from Infections after HA Injections

- Sterile skin prep before injection
  - Remove make up
- Culture fluctuant nodules before antibiotics
- Steroids not useful, prolong infection
- Consider atypical mycobacteria & biofilm if infection occurs weeks after injection
  - Multiple antibiotic therapies
  - Enzymatic removal of biofilms controversial
    - Biofilm dissolution → macrophage migration & antibiotic penetration  
verus
    - Bacterial spread

# Granulomas vs Infections

- Resorbable fillers
  - Low incidence of long-lasting or late complications
- Partially or completely nonresorbable fillers
  - More anaerobic infections & granuloma reactions
  - Harder to treat
- Bacterial infection tissue swelling
  - Edema & cellular foreign-body response
- Micro particle filler swelling
  - Foreign body granuloma



Granuloma

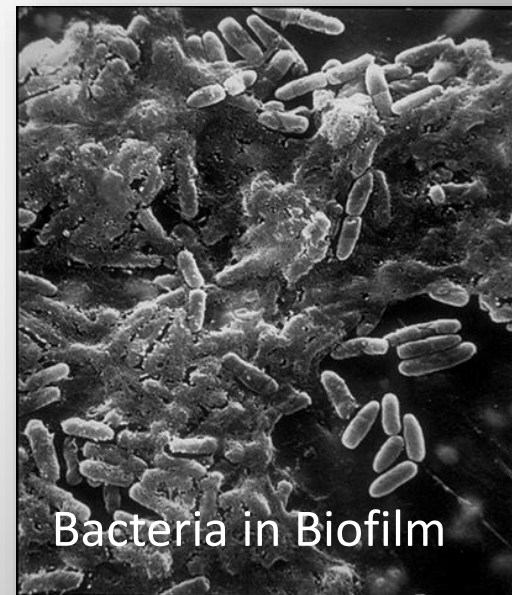
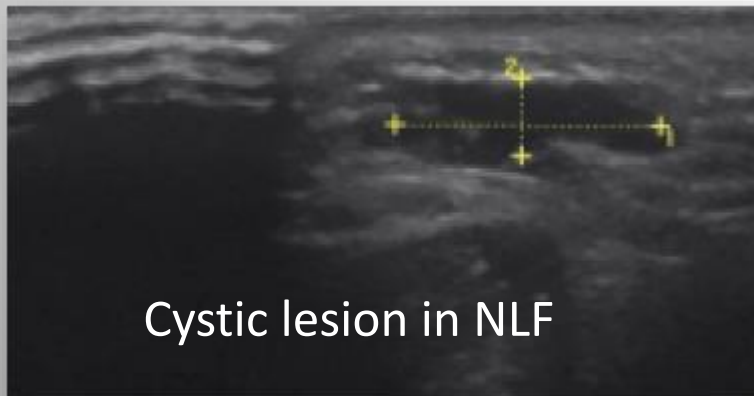
# Granulomas vs Infections

- Infection
  - Progress slowly
  - Anaerobic growth conditions
  - Symptoms 1 to 2 weeks after injection
- Granuloma
  - No detectable bacteria
  - May appear years after injection
  - Associated with microparticles fillers



# Long Lasting Low Grade Infections

- Culture negative nodules
- Mistaken for foreign-body granulomas
- Bacteria in biofilm
- Cysts on US





# Noninvasive therapeutic options

- Aspiration
  - Rarely works after a few months
- Excision
  - Scars & disfigurement
- Antibiotics
  - Effective only before biofilm develops
- Steroids
  - Temporary effect, rebound, skin atrophy & telangiectasias
- 5-Fluorouracil
  - Temporary effect & rebound

# New Concepts on Filler Problems

Many problems assumed to be foreign body granulomas or allergic reactions on the basis of negative bacterial cultures are now thought to be due to biofilms

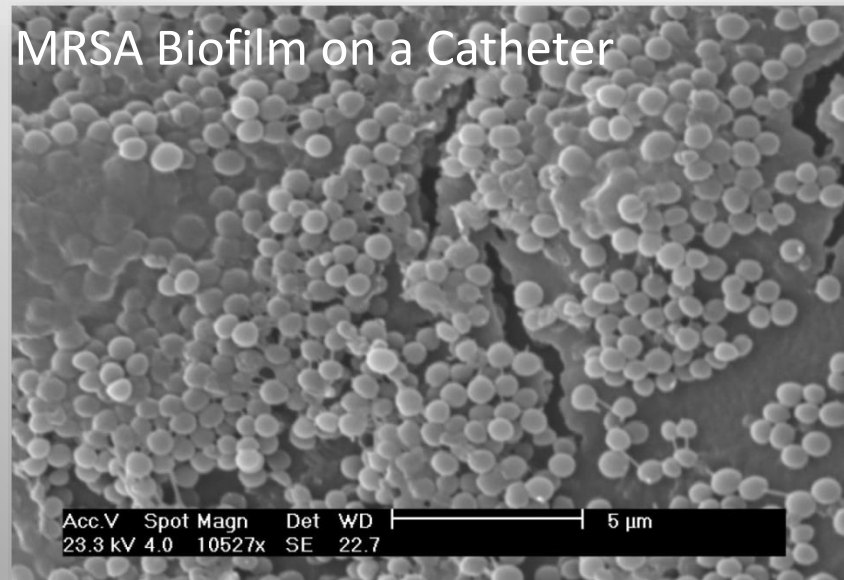
*(Wiest, 2009)*

Biofilms are almost impossible to culture using current standard culture technology and may be treated incorrectly with steroids injections, instead of 2 or 3 antibiotics

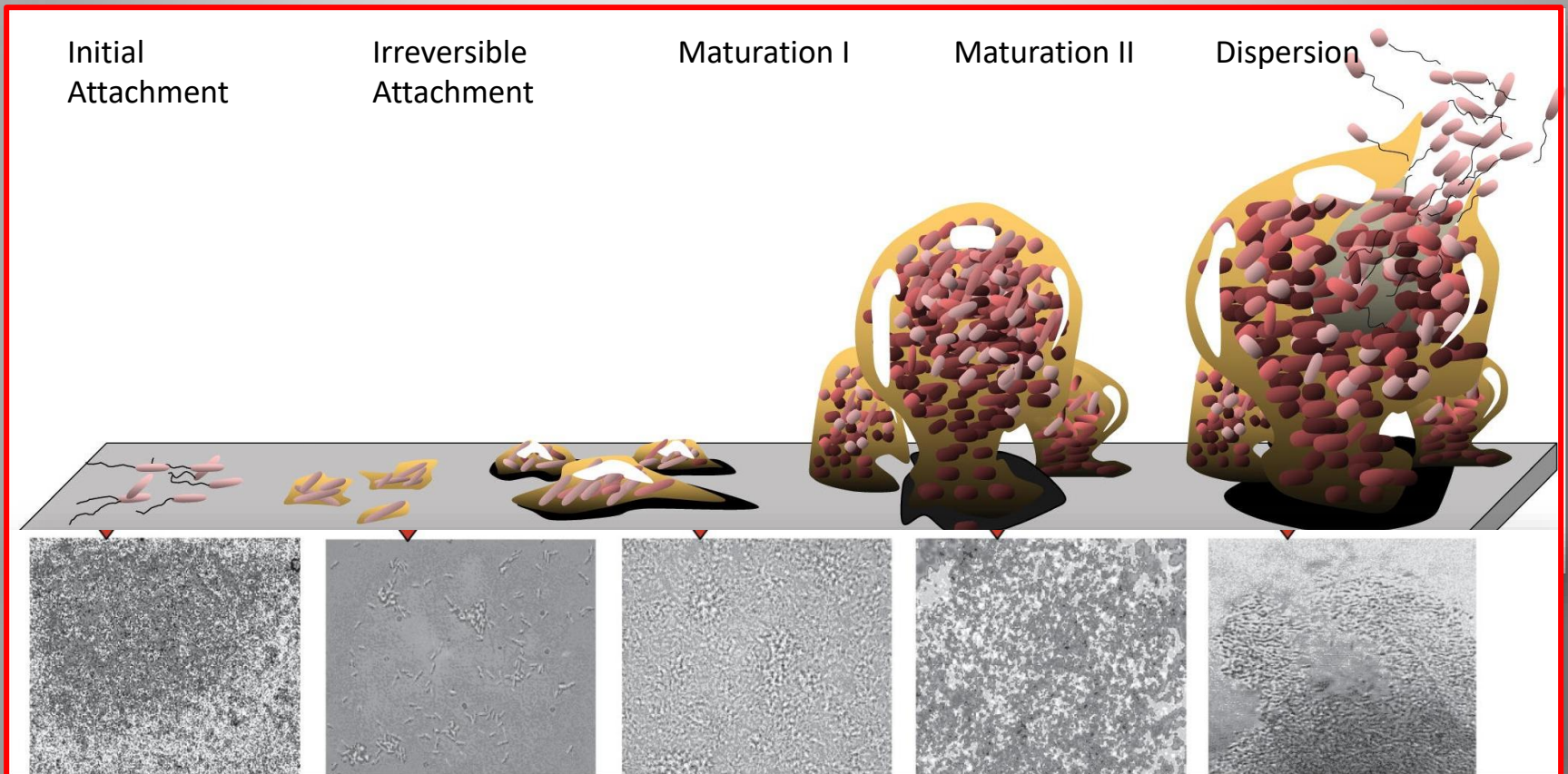
*(Christensen, 2009)*

# Biofilms

- Aggregate of microorganisms adherent to each other or a surface
- Embedded in a self-produced matrix of extracellular polymeric substance
- Cells in a biofilm are physiologically distinct from planktonic cells
- Biofilm growth mode causes large shift in gene regulation
- Increased resistance to antibiotics & detergents



# Biofilm Formation & Cycle



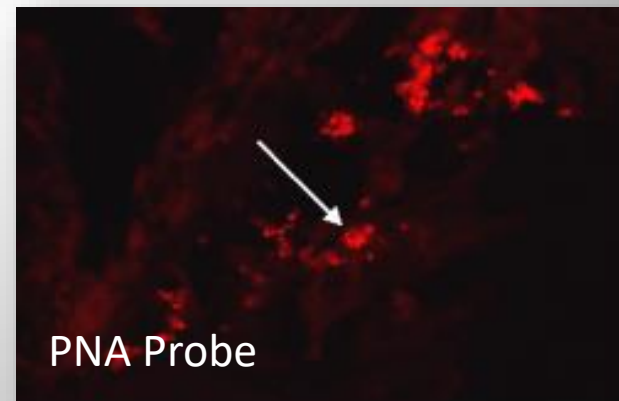
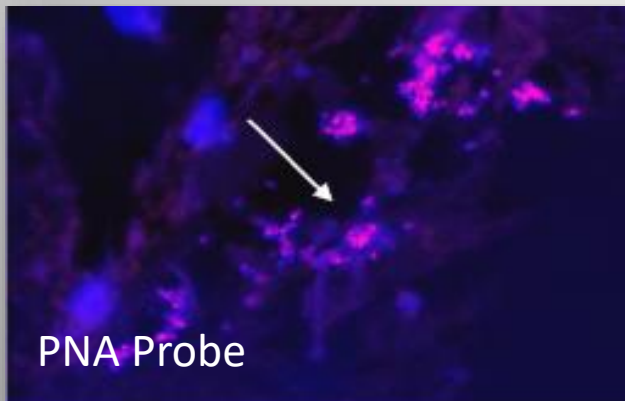
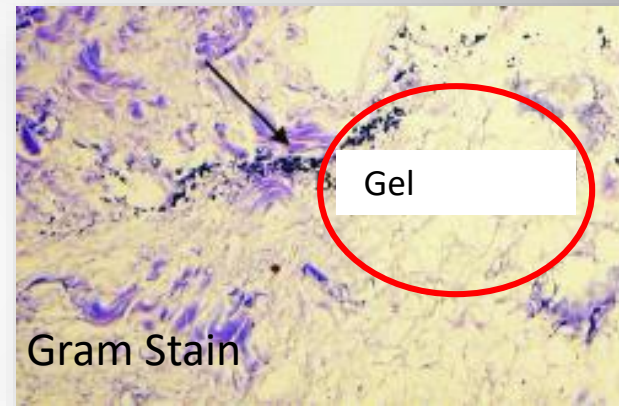
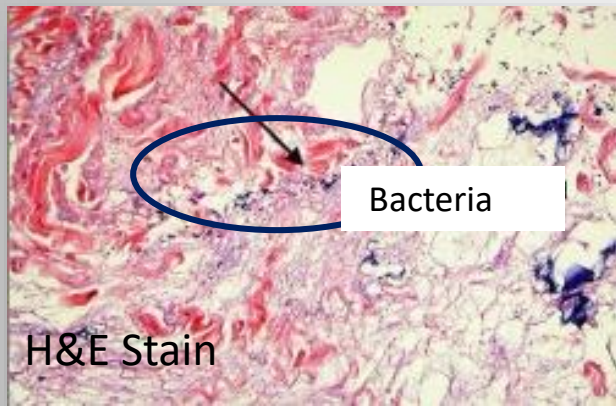
# Biofilm Infection Challenges

- Increased antibiotic resistance (1000x drug needed)
- Leucocytes trapped & made ineffective
- Chemical communication promotes bacterial cooperation
- Dormant (persister) cells have decreased metabolism
  - Difficult to culture
  - Resistant to antibiotics
- Clinical failure to recognize infections
- **RESULT: Low-grade smoldering infection**
  - Low host response
  - High antibiotic resistance
  - Low possibility of positive culture

# Biofilm Detection

- Biofilm detection requires fluorescent DNA stains or other chemical reactions
- May need 4 to 6 weeks on specific agar plates

# Bacteria in Gel



# Fillers Susceptible to Biofilm Complications

## **Combination Gels (more likely)**

- Collagen–PMMA suspensions (Artecoll)
- HA–PMMA suspensions (Dermalive ,Dermadeep, Dermatech)
- Bioplastique (silicone in polyvinylpyrrolidone)
- Evolution (polyacrylamideco-DADMA)
- Bio-Alcamid (polyalkylmide)
- Outline (procollagen)

## **Homogenous Products (less likely)**

- Radiesse
- Silicone
- Polyacrylamides

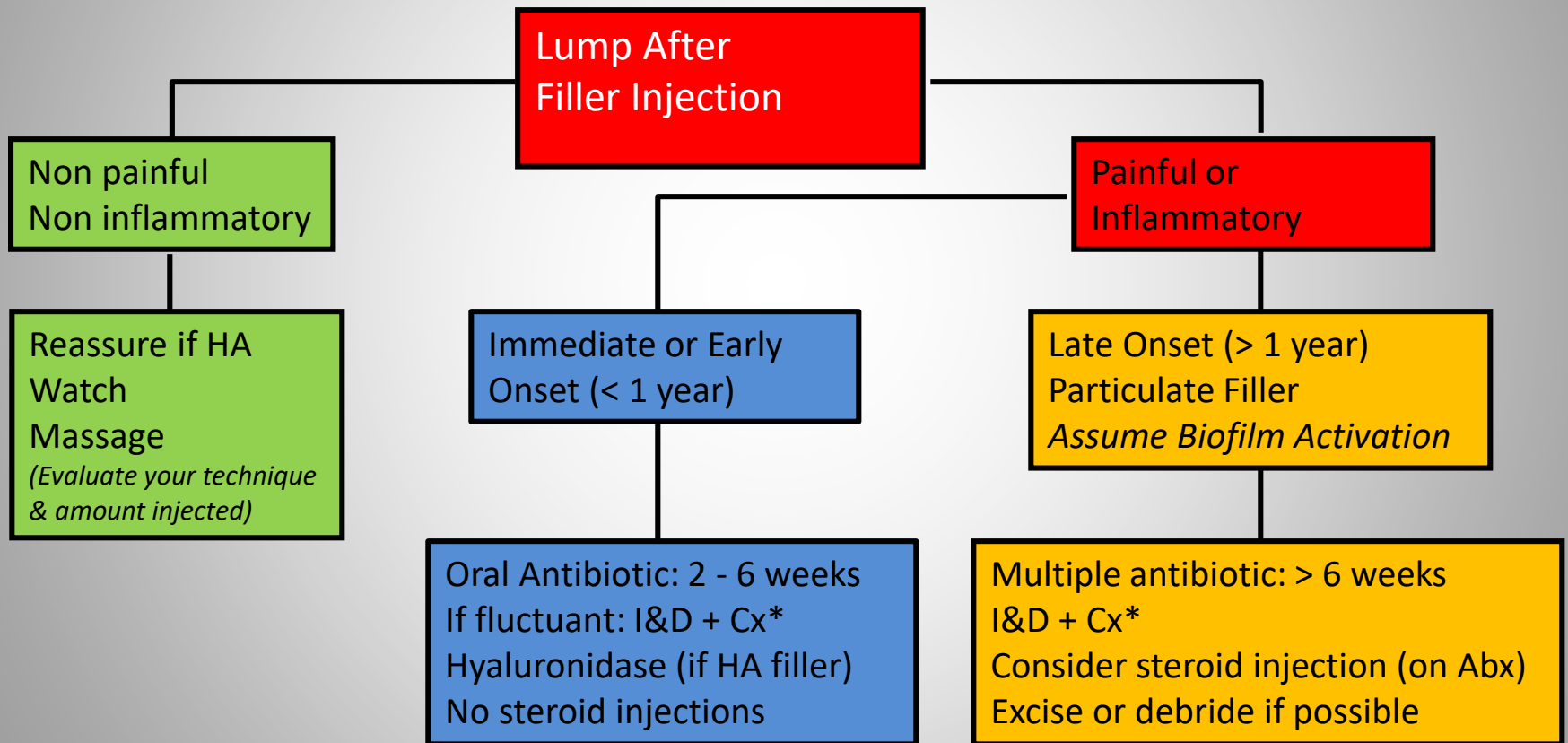


# Biofilm 2 Week Window

- 2-week period after implant placement when bacterial contamination can occur and develop a biofilm
- Timeline documented in orthopedic implants & other solid foreign body implanted material
- Avoid needle injections over the implant during the 2 weeks
- Dental procedures, facial trauma, or facial infections can introduce bacteria and produce biofilm



# Treatment Algorithm



# Antibiotic Treatment

## Most Early Infections

- Clarithromycin 500 mg BID x 6 weeks
- Minocycline 100mg BID x 6 weeks

## Recurrent infections suggest active biofilm

- Filler & biofilm must be removed/excised

# Laser Treatment of Filler Lesions

- Infectious lesions
  - 532 nm lithium triborate laser
  - Removal of infected gel & pus
- Granulomas
  - 808 nm diode laser (intralesional technique)
  - Melt & liquefied then granuloma
  - Facilitates evacuation
- Thin laser beam
  - Controlled tissue
- 20 patients had reduction or complete resolution
  - Resolution increased with repeated treatments
  - All had prior antibiotics & steroids without success



# Laser Treatment of Filler Lesions

- Cystic lumps 3 months after HA & dextranomer microspheres injections
- 6 weeks antibiotics & steroids no resolution
- Multiple 532 nm lithium triborate laser treatments



# Laser Treatment of Filler Lesions

- Granulomas after Dermalive\* & Aquamid\*\*
- 808 nm diode laser treatment
- Drill holes for evacuation



\* HA + acrylic hydrogel

\*\* Polyacrylamide

# FDA Safety Communication

 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

 **U.S. Food and Drug Administration**  
Protecting and Promoting *Your* Health

[A to Z Index](#) | [Follow FDA](#) | [En Español](#)

Search FDA

[Home](#) [Food](#) [Drugs](#) [Medical Devices](#) [Radiation-Emitting Products](#) [Vaccines, Blood & Biologics](#) [Animal & Veterinary](#) [Cosmetics](#) [Tobacco Products](#)

## Medical Devices

[Home](#) > [Medical Devices](#) > [Medical Device Safety](#) > [Safety Communications](#)

**Safety Communications**

- [Information About Heparin](#)
- [Preventing Tubing and Luer](#)

### Unintentional Injection of Soft Tissue Filler into Blood Vessels in the Face: FDA Safety Communication

# Signs & Symptoms of Intraarterial Injection

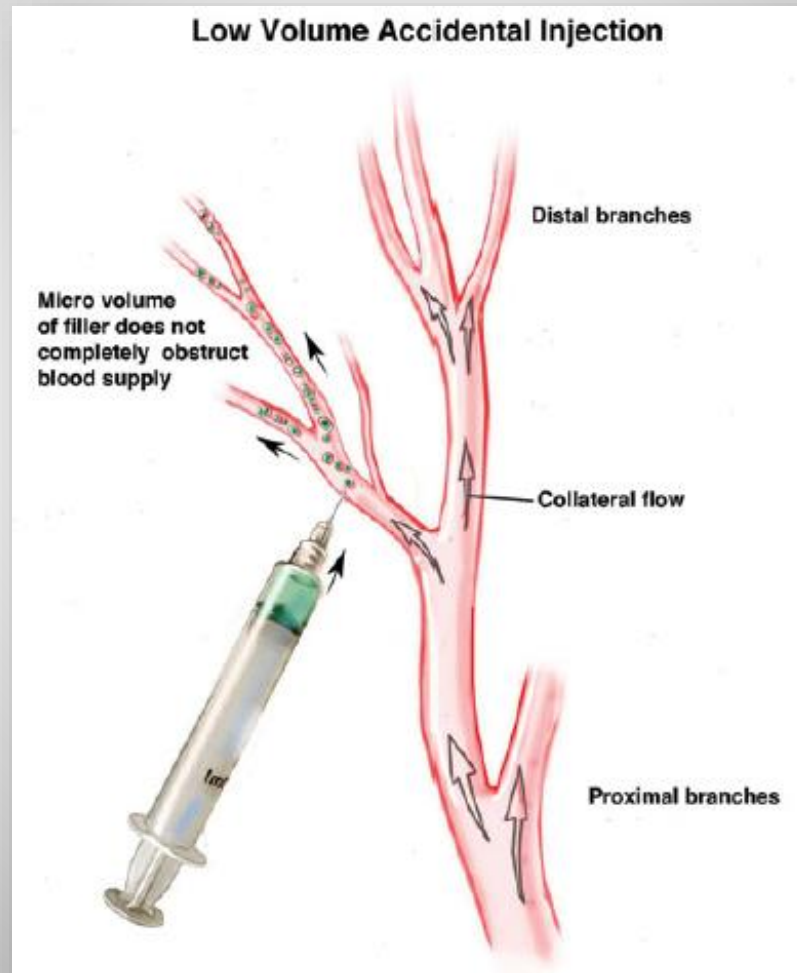
- Skin
  - Pain
  - Nausea
  - Skin blanching
  - Slow capillary refill
  - Demarcation
- Eye
  - Vision loss/blindness
- Stroke
  - “FAST”: facial drooping, arm weakness, speech impediment, time (act fast!)



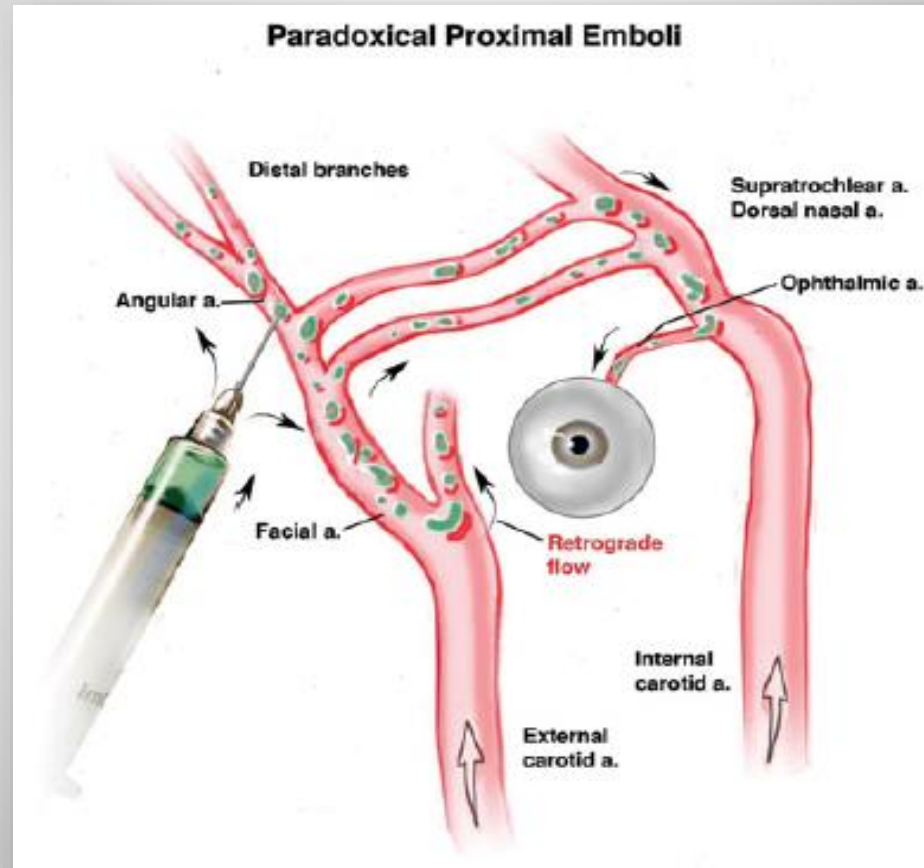
# Progression of Skin Changes

Findings	Timing
Blanching	Seconds
Reactive hyperemia or livedo pattern	Minutes up to 10 minutes
Blue-black discoloration	10 minutes to hours
Blister/bullae formation	Hours to days
Skin breakdown, ulceration, slough	Days to weeks

# Low Volume Injection & Arterial Occlusion



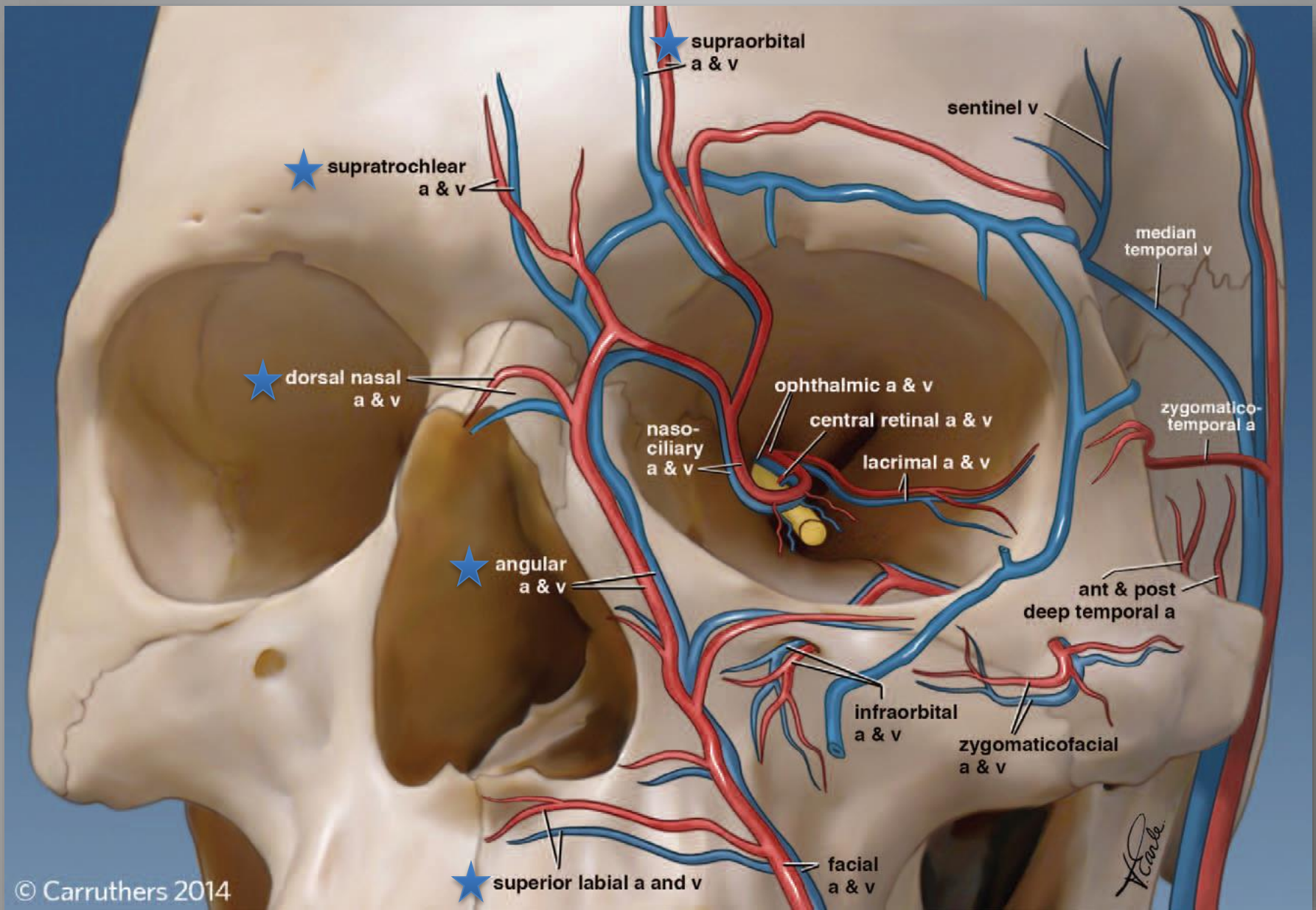
# High Injection Pressure & Retrograde Propagation



# Avoid Arterial Injection & Propagation

- Withdraw before injection
- Avoid deep injection near named vessels
- Low pressure injection
- Avoiding injecting excess volume in one area
- Blunt cannulas
- Small bore
- Inject slowly in small aliquots
- Avoid injection in previously traumatized areas
- Stop injection if complaints of pain/vision loss

Carruthers JDA, Fagien S, Rohrich RJ, Weinkle S, Carruthers A. Blindness caused by cosmetic filler injection: a review of cause and therapy. PRS. 2015.

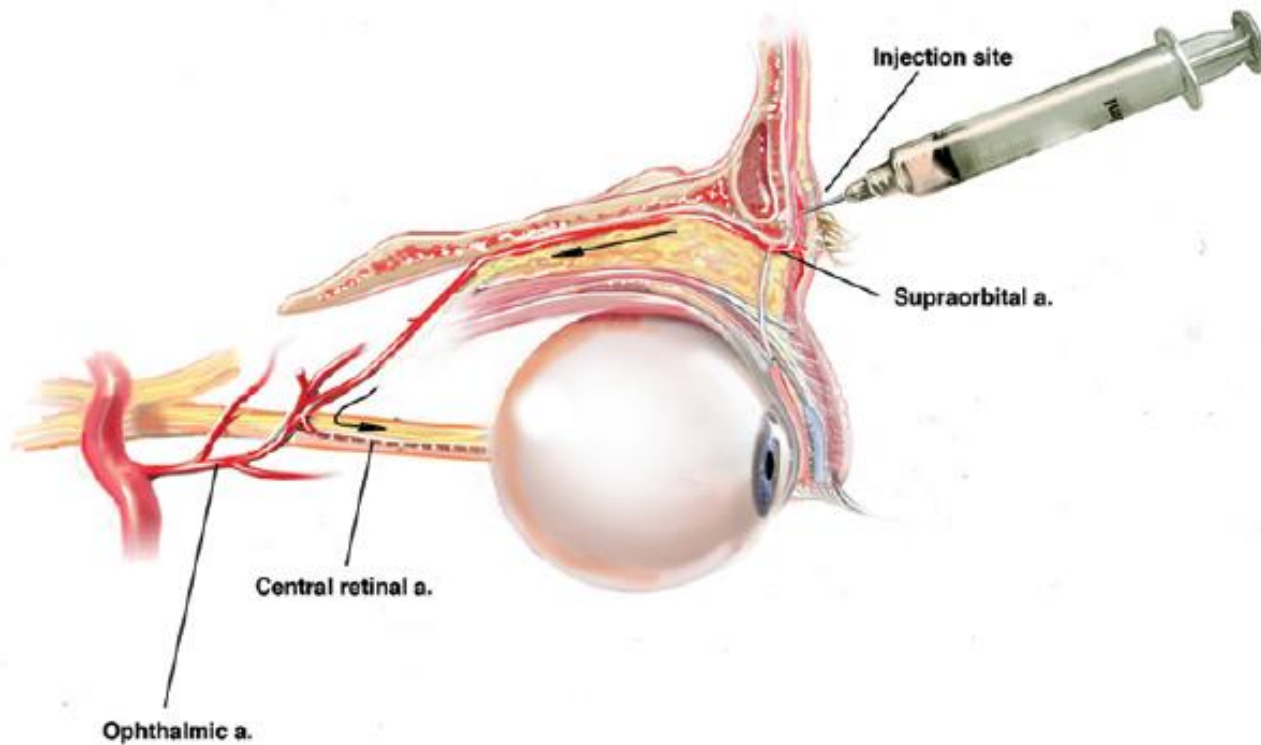


© Carruthers 2014

Carruthers JDA, Fagien S, Rohrich RJ, Weinkle S, Carruthers A. Blindness caused by cosmetic filler injection: a review of cause and therapy. PRS. 2015.

# Blindness

Retrograde Flow / Blindness



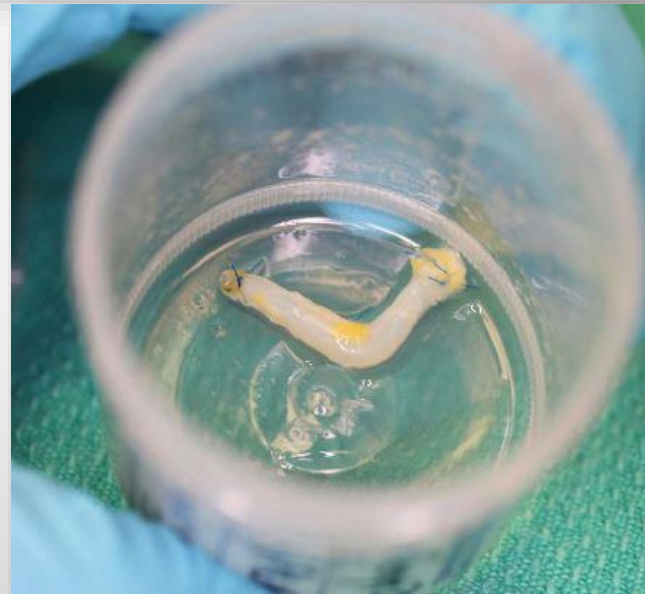
# Crash Kit

- Warm compress
- Nitropaste
- Baby ASA
- Supplemental O2
- HYALURONIDASE
  - 400U into subcutaneous area (2cc in a 3cc syringe with 0.2cc plain lidocaine 2%, 27 g-needle)

# Hyaluronidase

## Transarterial Degradation of Hyaluronic Acid Filler by Hyaluronidase

CLAUDIO DeLORENZI, BA, MD, FRCS



Intravascular HA liquefied in cadaver arteries &veins after 4 hours



# Hyaluronidase

**Hyaluronidase works for  
Juvederm**

Ultra & Ultra Plus  
Voluma & Volbella

Restylane

Lyft & Silk

Belotero

**Always have Hylenex  
available when doing  
HA injections**



# Filler Emergencies

- Soft tissue intravascular occlusion
- Stroke
  - Standard emergency stroke protocol
- Vision loss/blindness
  - Emergency ophthalmology consult
  - Retrobulbar hyaluronidase injection

# Retrobulbar Injection Technique

- Local anesthesia into lower eyelid over inferotemporal orbit
- Blunt, 25g cannula advanced in inferotemporal quadrant of orbit for 1 inch
  - Inferior and lateral to optic nerve
- 2 to 4cc hyaluronidase

# Retrobulbar Injection Technique



# Complications



# Posted on Real Self



**Use Informed Consent Forms!**

# Filler Complications

- All fillers have potential complications
- Long lasting
  - More persistent
  - More difficult to treat
- Complications due to technique vs material
  - Learn technique on temporary fillers
  - Experience decreases technique complications

# Recommendations

- Know the filler material you are using
- Start with temporary & reversible products
  - Hyaluronic acids
- Use sterile techniques
- Limit amount injected & areas treated
  - Easier to add than to take away
- Deal with inflammatory nodules
- Know the regulatory issues



# Regulatory Issues

# Fillers & the Law

- Product purchase source
- Non-FDA approved fillers
- Patient supplied fillers
- Off label filler use
- Reimporting FDA approved fillers
- Physician vs non-physician filler injector
- Non-clinical treatment settings



# Purchase Directly from Manufacturer

## 5 Docs Plead Guilty in Bogus Botox Rap; Stems From Toxin Research International Case

*By Jim Edwards | Aug 14, 2009*

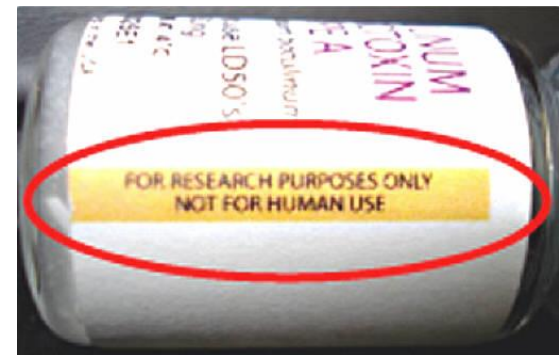
Five prominent New York State doctors pled guilty this week to injecting patients with an unapproved version of **Botox**, and not telling those patients they weren't getting the real thing. They face a possible year in prison and a \$100,000 fine on a misdemeanor misbranded drugs charge.

The doctors bought the Botox from **Toxin Research International** in Arizona. The doctors maintain they thought it was the real thing, and no patients were injured.

The president of Toxin Research International is currently serving nine years in prison for fraudulently selling misbranded Botox on the web.

The case is a warning to doctors: get your supplies through established channels, not the secondary market.

These weren't sleazy docs operating out of strip malls. Their resumes read like pillars of the community.



# Non FDA Approved Fillers

**Is it legal for a physician to obtain and use a product from outside of the United States that is not approved by the FDA?**

- An individual who enters the country with a non-approved injectable filler could be sanctioned by the FDA
- A physician who orders a non-approved injectable filler through a non-US mail-order pharmacy could be sanctioned by the FDA
- State medical board involvement if any patient complaints result
- Exceptions for investigators working under FDA-approved studies



# Patient Provided Fillers

If a patient brings a non-approved drug or device to a physician, is it legal to treat the patient using this drug or device?

- Federal law prohibits such conduct
- Risk of significant liability exposure, invalidation of professional liability insurance coverage, criminal penalties and action by regulatory agencies



# Off-Label Filler Use

## **What is the risk exposure of off-label use of approved drugs?**

- Off-label use of FDA approved drugs does **not** carry the risks cited above, provided patient acceptance and understanding, and the treatment rationale, are well documented
- For example, Botulinum toxin type A is a FDA-approved product for use in the glabellar area. Use of the product in other areas is legal and a clinical decision

## **Can a physician advertise non-approved or off-label use?**

- It is illegal to commercially advertise any non-approved or off-label use; only FDA-approved uses may be commercially advertised

# Reimported Fillers

**Is it legal for a physician to purchase and use an FDA approved drug/product that is reimported from foreign sources?**

- The act of importing drugs manufactured or approved in the U.S. and approved by the FDA is called “reimportation”...which remains illegal and dangerous
- Currently, only manufacturers are allowed to reimport their own drugs



# Non-Physician Filler Administration

## **What level of training or licensure is required to administer injectables or fillers?**

- Injections may be administered by a licensed professional nurse or physician assistant as determined by the supervising physician & local and state professional practice regulations
- Physician's responsibility to ensure the non-physician possess proper education and training

## **What are the legal requirements for physician supervision of non-physician personnel who administer injectables and fillers?**

- Supervisory regulations vary from state to state
- Physician of record is ultimately responsible



# Non-Clinical Treatment Settings

- **Administration of injectables & fillers outside a clinical setting**
- Concern about non-clinical sites where treatments offered
  - Shopping malls, private homes, office parties, and group social gatherings
- Inappropriate for several reasons:
  - Inadequate patient selection
  - Possible peer pressure for an individual to consent to treatment
  - Providers who are not trained or qualified to treat or deal with complications
  - Lack of control over dosage and inadequate post-treatment supervision
  - Alcohol influencing decision making
  - Dealing with adverse event

**Update In Process**



# PMMA Filler for Treating Acne Scars

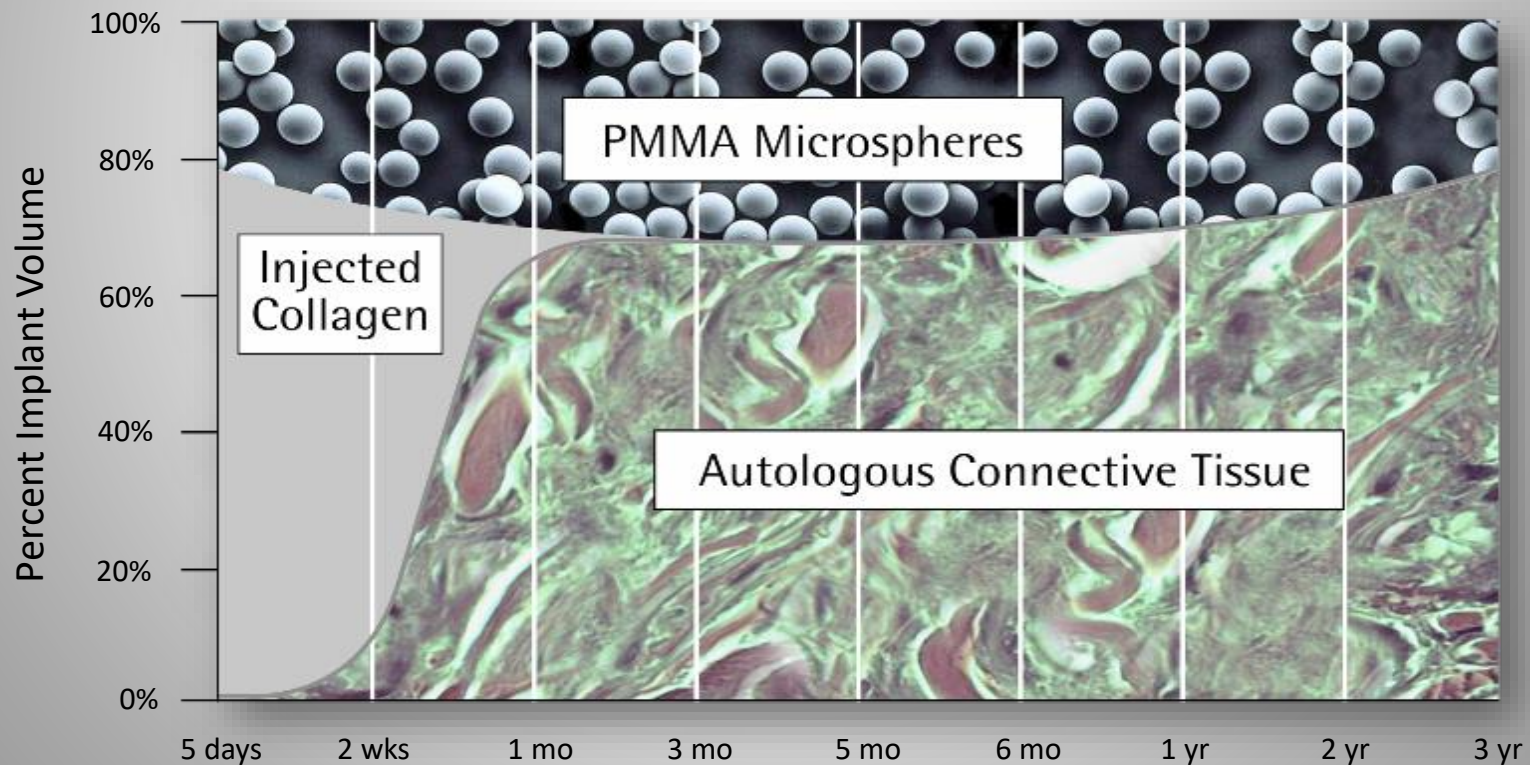
***Karol A Gutowski, MD, FACS***

# Acne Scar Treatment Options

- Fillers (HA, PLLA)
- Laser resurfacing
- Chemical peels
- Topical treatments
- Dermabrasion
- Subcision
- Excision

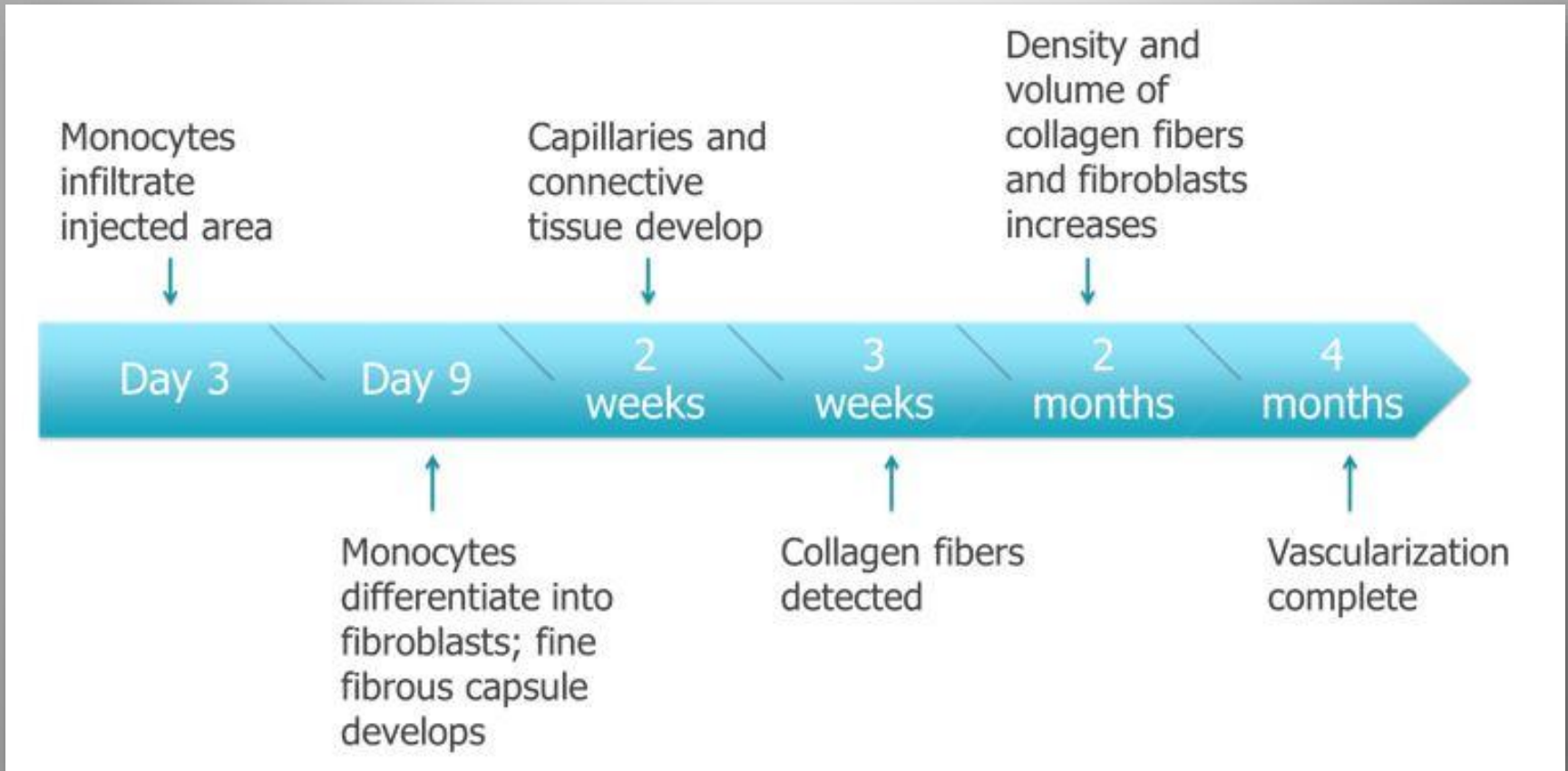
# Bellafill Mechanism of Action

- Initial volumization (bovine collagen)
- Secondary autologous collagen stimulation (PMMA)



# Time Line

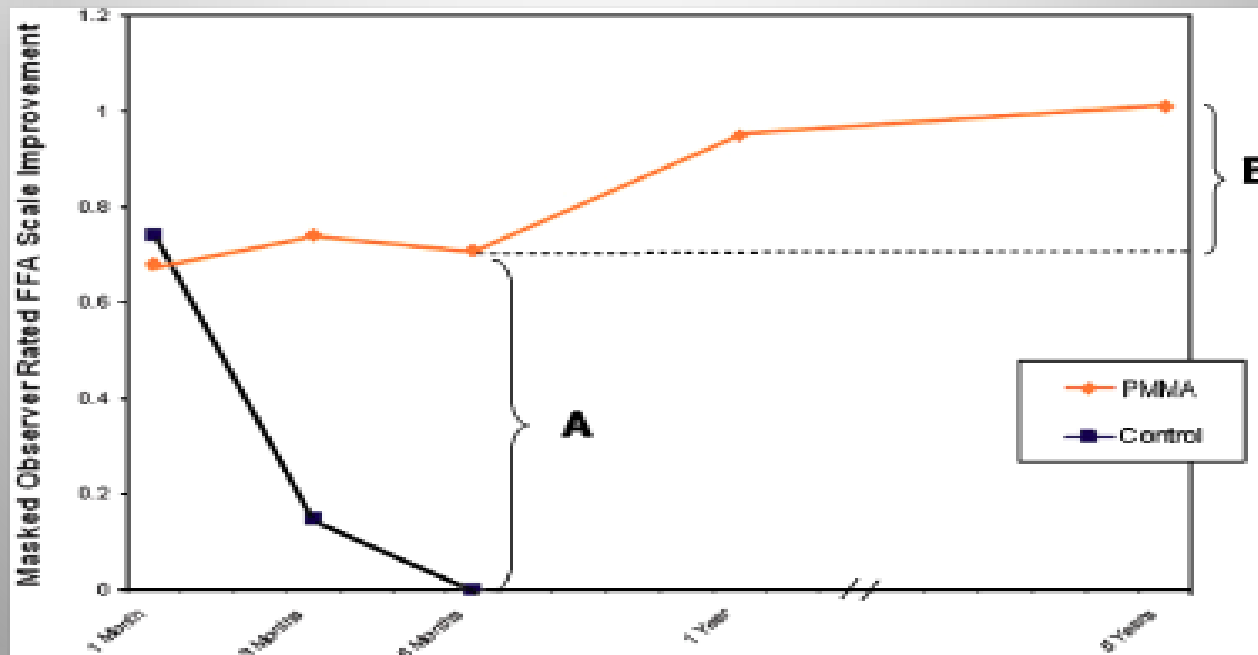
6 to 8 weeks to final result



# Update on Duration of Effect

## Post Marketing Study

- 145 patients followed for 5 years
- 5 year 90% patient & investigator satisfaction



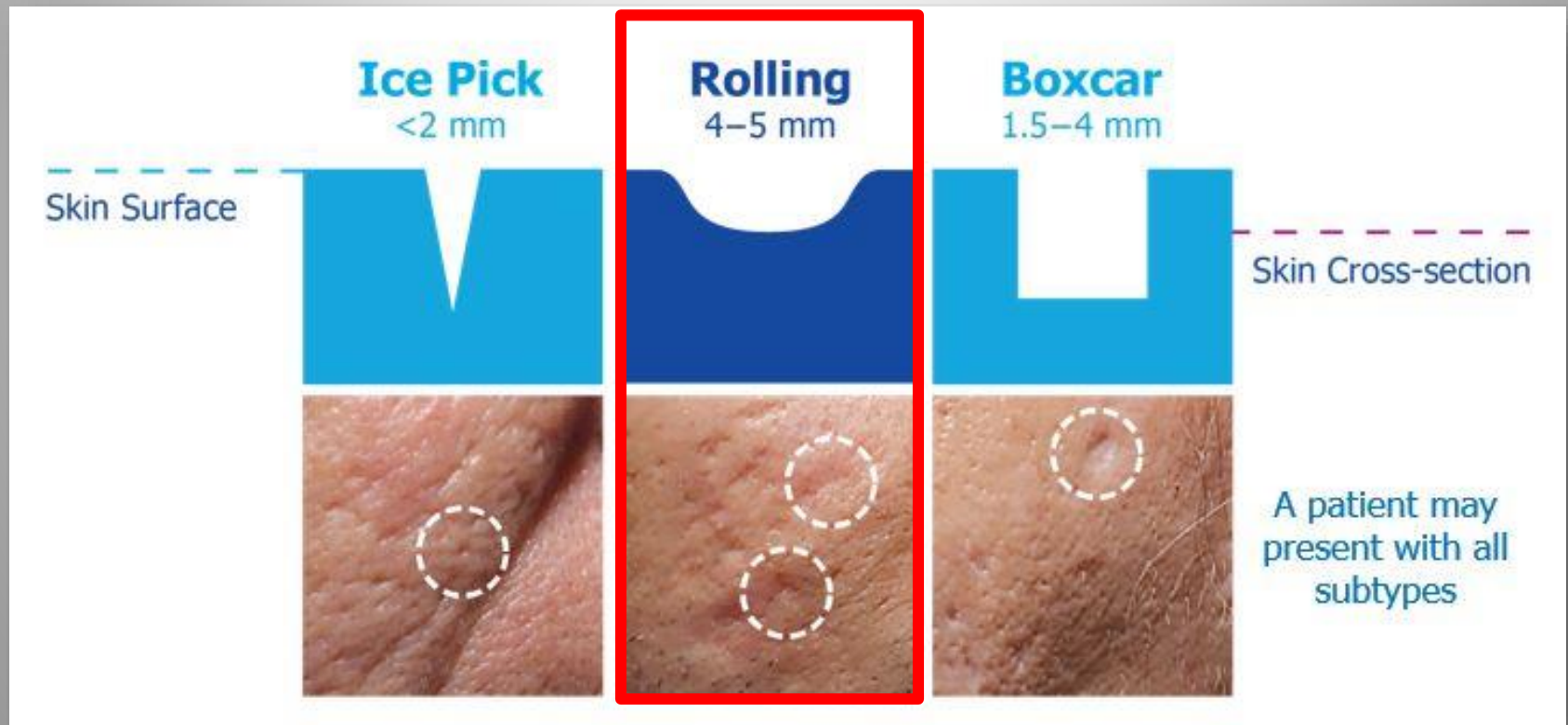
# Update on Duration of Effect

## 5 Year Safety Trial

- 1008 patients followed for 5 years
- 87% retention
- 94% “somewhat” to “very satisfied”

# Atrophic Acne Scars

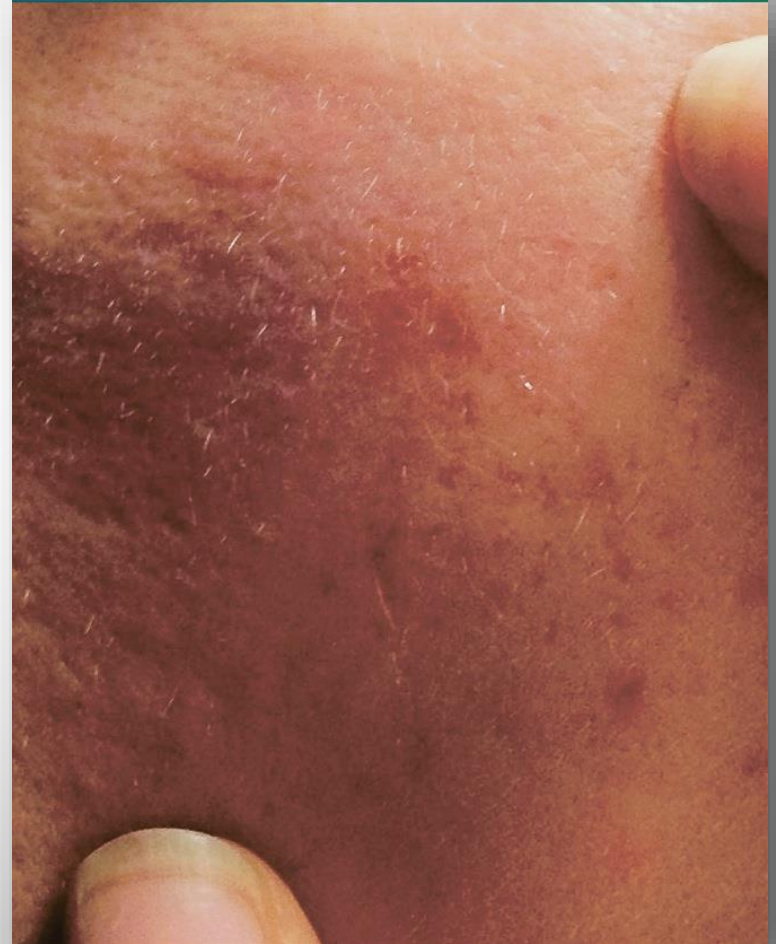
Rolling scars improved with skin traction



Bellafill FDA Approved for Acne Scars



# Scars Improved with Traction



# Acne Scar Assessment

Category	Score	Description
Minimal	1	Depth up to .5 mm
		Visibility = Perceptible with tangential lighting
Mild	2	Depth >.5 mm to <1.5 mm
		Visibility = Moderately detectable with tangential lighting
Moderate	3	Depth $\geq$ 1.5 mm to <2.5 mm
		Visibility = Easily seen with tangential lighting
Severe	4	Depth $\geq$ 2.5 mm
		Visibility = Substantial shadowing with tangential lighting

Study: Grade 3 & 4 rolling acne scars

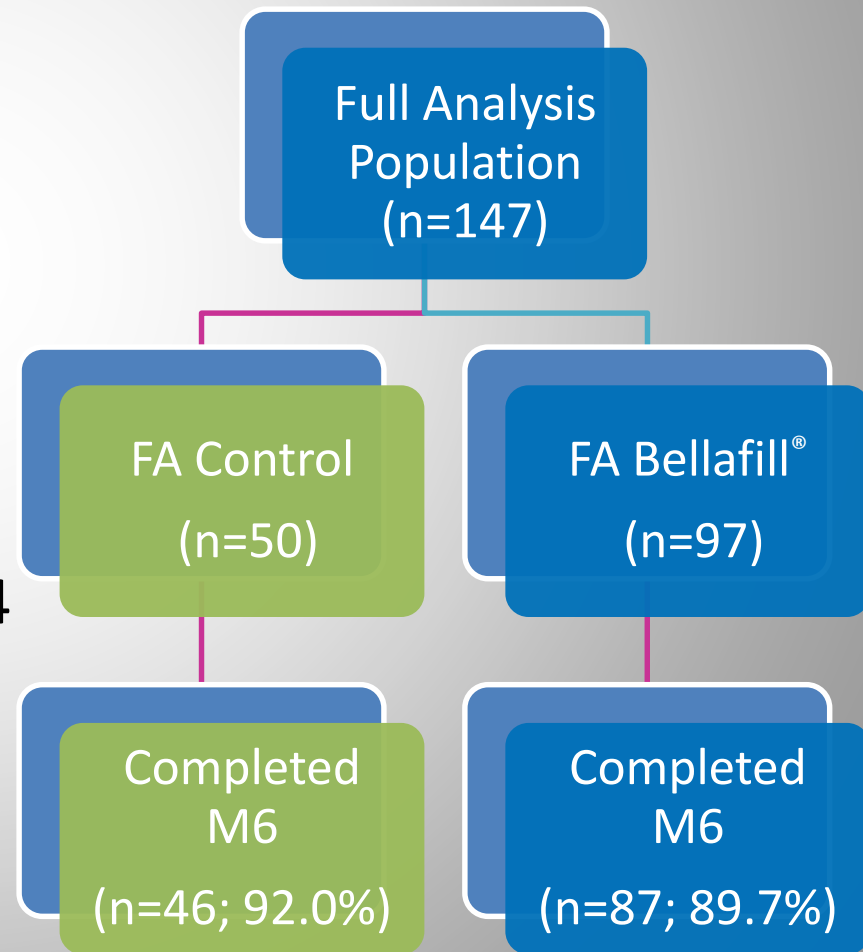
# Patient Selection



Study: Grade 3 & 4 rolling acne scars

# ERAS Trial

- Double blinded RCT at 10 sites
- Mean age 45 yo, 2/3 female
- Average 0.1 cc per scar
  - 1.0 cc first treatment
  - 0.7 cc touch up treatment
- 80% touch up treatment
- Effectiveness: At least 50% of scars improved by  $\geq 2$  points (4 point scale) at 1 year



# ERAS Trial: Investigator Evaluation

## Evaluated by Blinded Investigator



Responder =  $\geq 2$ -point improvement in  $\geq 50\%$  of treated scars

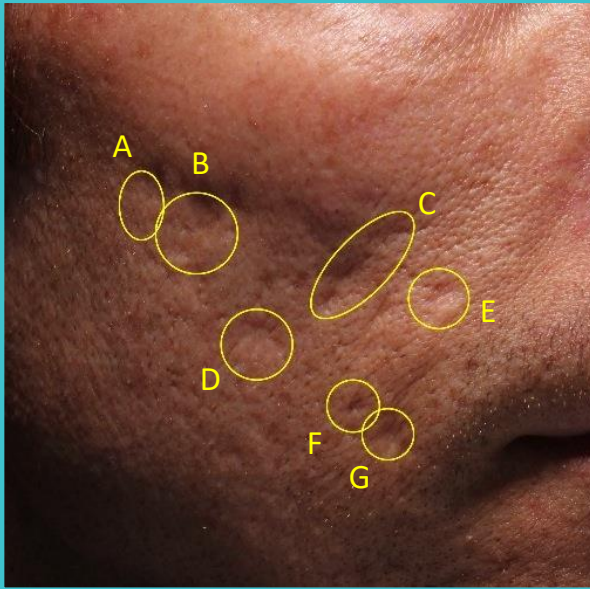
# ERAS Trial: Adverse Events

Reported in > 1% of subjects

Adverse Events, n (%)	PMMA-collagen n = 143*	Control n = 50
• Injection site reaction—lumpiness and papule (3 mild, 1 moderate)	4 (2.8%)	0 (0)
• Injection site bruising (2 mild, 1 severe)	3 (2.1%)	0 (0)
• Injection site pain (mild)	3 (2.1%)	0 (0)

# Results

Baseline



Month 6



Month 12



**2 syringes over 2 treatment sessions total for both cheeks**

Only circled scars were treated

# Results

Baseline

Month 6

Month 12



**2 syringes over 2 treatment sessions total for both cheeks**

Only circled scars were treated



# Results

Baseline

Month 6

Month 12



**2.5 syringes for each cheek**

Only circled scars were treated

# Results

Baseline

Month 6

Month 12



**2.5 syringes for each cheek**

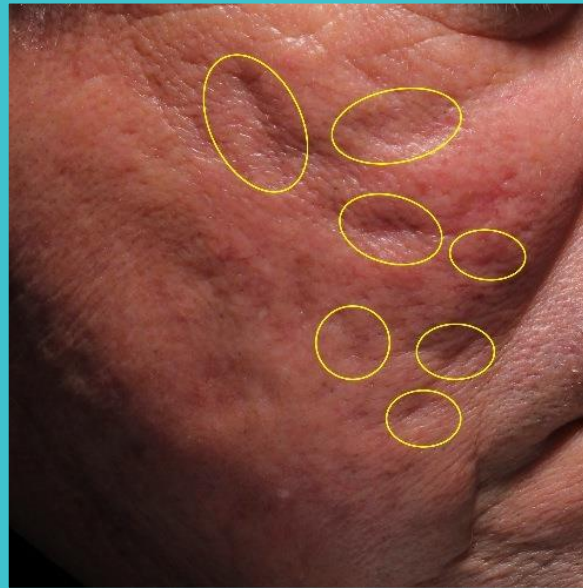
Only circled scars were treated

# Results

Baseline



Month 6



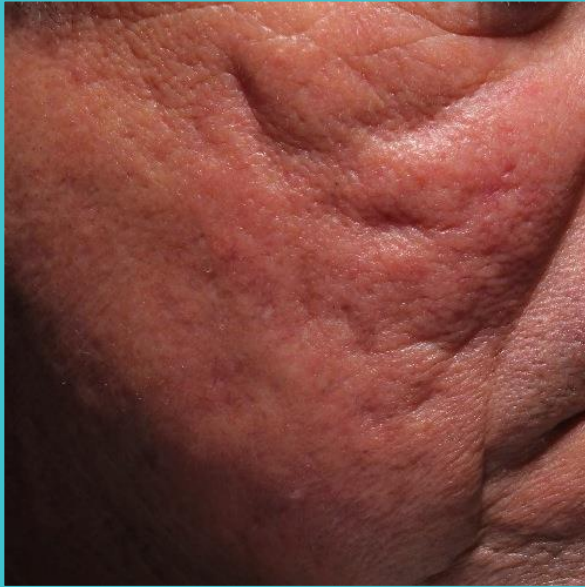
Month 12



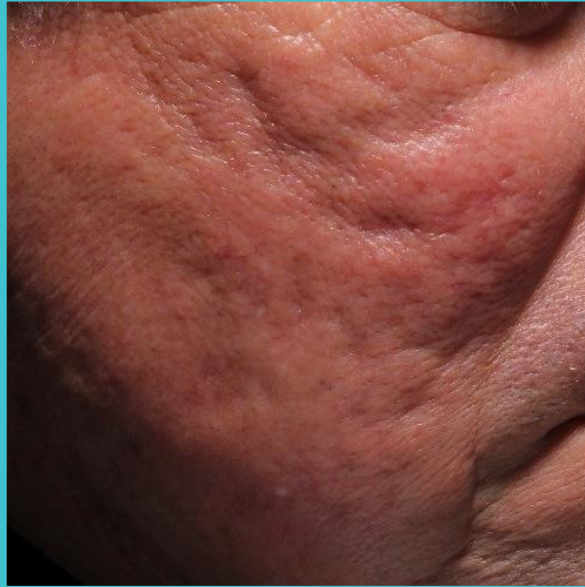
Only circled scars were treated

# Results

Baseline



Month 6



Month 12



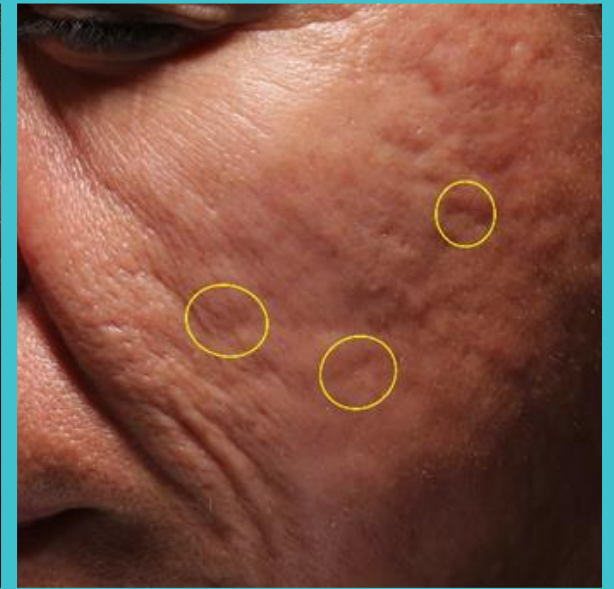
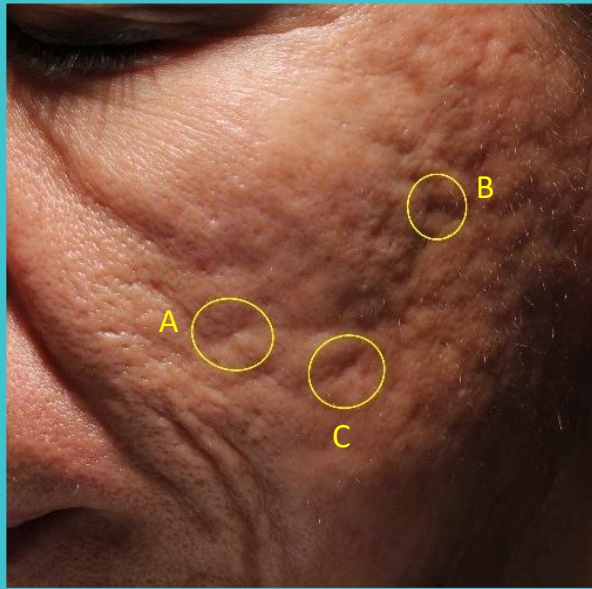
Only circled scars were treated

# Results

Baseline

Month 6

Month 12



**0.4 cc for these 3 sites**

Only circled scars were treated

# Results

Baseline



Month 6



Month 12



**0.4 cc for these 3 sites**

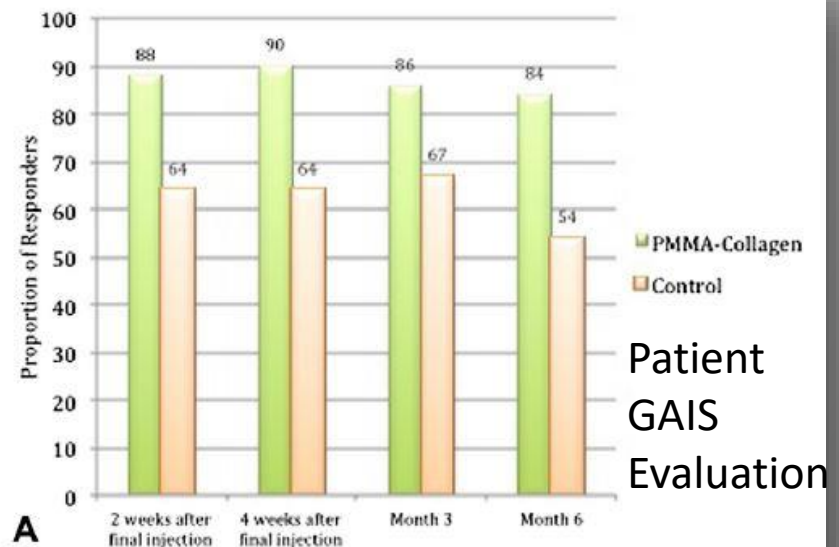
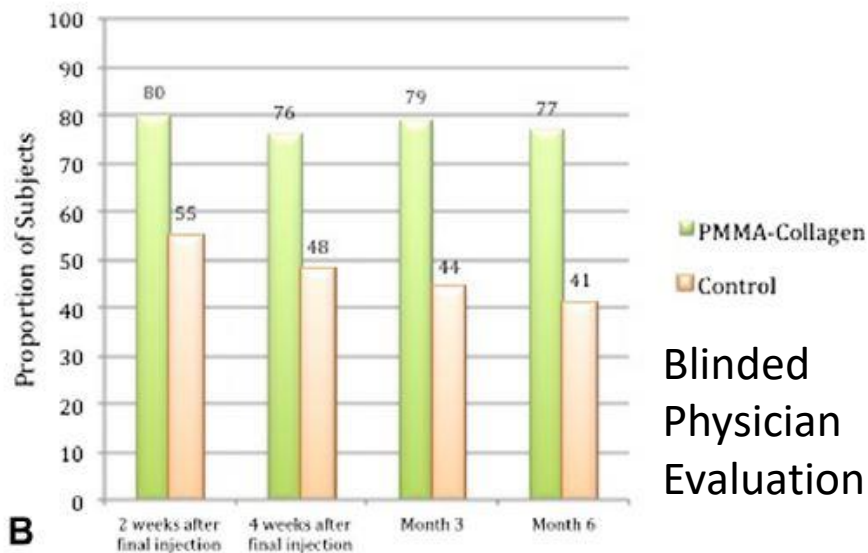
Only circled scars were treated

# Independent Study

## A double-blind, randomized, multicenter, controlled trial of suspended polymethylmethacrylate microspheres for the correction of atrophic facial acne scars

Jwala Karnik, MD,<sup>a</sup> Leslie Baumann, MD,<sup>l</sup> Suzanne Bruce, MD,<sup>b</sup> Valerie Callender, MD,<sup>c,d</sup> Steven Cohen, MD,<sup>e,f</sup> Pearl Grimes, MD,<sup>m</sup> John Joseph, MD,<sup>h</sup> Ava Shamban, MD,<sup>i</sup> James Spencer, MD,<sup>j</sup> Ruth Tedaldi, MD,<sup>n</sup> William Philip Werschler, MD,<sup>k</sup> and Stacy R. Smith, MD<sup>g</sup>  
*Santa Barbara, San Diego, Beverly Hills, and Los Angeles, California; Miami, Florida; Houston, Texas; Glenn Dale, Maryland; Washington, District of Columbia; New York, New York; Wellesley, Massachusetts; and Seattle, Washington*

2014



# Personal Experience

- Challenges with photo documentation
  - VISIA not useful
- Patient expectations
  - Moderate to severe rolling scars
- Multimodality approach
  - Micro-needling
  - Chemical peels
  - Fractional CO2 laser



# Injectable Soft Tissue Fillers: Practical Applications

***Karol A Gutowski, MD, FACS***



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
Hospital & Health Sciences System

— Changing medicine. For good. —