

BOTOX® and DYSPORT®

The repetitive action of muscles in certain regions of the face cause unsightly furrows and wrinkles. BOTOX® and DYSPORT® are natural proteins that relax these muscles and thereby cause these undesirable lines to disappear. These products have been used in medicine for decades and have a long track record of safety and efficacy. Tiny amounts of BOTOX® or DYSPORT® are injected into facial muscles causing them to relax. The procedure takes only five to ten minutes to perform and involves little or no discomfort. Within days, the muscles begin to relax and the wrinkles become less prominent or totally disappear. These injections are commonly placed in the brow, forehead, and “crow’s feet” regions. The results usually last from three to six months. The procedure can be repeated in the future if desired.

RESTYLANE® JUVEDERM® RADIESSE® LIPOTRANSFER

All of these injectable products are designed to safely and efficiently restore volume to the critically important layer of tissue, the dermis, which lies just beneath the surface of the skin. As we age, the dermis loses strength and volume because of changes in proteins and compounds that are important for support of the overlying superficial layer of the skin. The result is laxity, fine wrinkles, and deep furrows that give the appearance of aging. Popular treatment areas include the nasolabial folds (smile lines) and nasojugal folds (tear troughs). All of these products are FDA-approved for treatment of facial lines and wrinkles.

RESTYLANE® and JUVEDERM®

These popular injectable fillers are made of a naturally occurring compound, called hyaluronic acid. Restylane has been used in over 1 million cosmetic facial procedures in the United States. Juvederm was more recently put on the market by the makers of BOTOX. An advantage of hyaluronic acid is its ability to absorb and hold water in the tissues where it is injected. This creates volume restoration that can last six to twelve months. These injectable gels contain no animal products and no allergy testing is required prior to use. The procedure can be performed in the office and is associated with only mild discomfort and a quick recovery time.

RADIESSE®

Radiesse® is another injectable filler that is made of calcium-based microspheres in a water-based gel. Radiesse® is naturally absorbed by the body over time and it is non-toxic. An advantage of Radiesse® is that it actually stimulates new collagen formation under the surface of the skin, which can prolong the results. Again, no allergy testing is required prior to treatment with Radiesse.

LIPOTRANSFER

This technique involves removal of fatty tissue from an area of excess (such as the abdomen) and subsequent injection of the tissue beneath the skin for the purpose of volume restoration. The obvious advantage of this technique is that one’s own body tissue is what is used for volume restoration, so there is no foreign material of any kind. Some of the injected fat cells are absorbed by the body with time. However, in many people the fat cells that are injected remain indefinitely, thus allowing the potential of long-term benefits.