

SPRINGFIELD ENT & FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY

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Restylane® Injection for Facial Creases and Lips

What is Restylane®?

- Restylane® is a clear gel made of a substance that is found in all living cells. This product is actually produced through a fermentation process. For these reasons, the risk of any allergic reaction is extremely low and skin testing is not necessary before treatment (as may be needed for collagen).

How does Restylane® work and what can it treat?

- Restylane® injection is used for treatment of *deeper facial creases* such as those beside the nose, mouth, and chin as well as for “frown” lines just above the nose. It also works nicely for *enhancing lip fullness*. It is not helpful for certain conditions, however. Some wrinkles occur only when facial muscles are contracted (and disappear with relaxation) - these are best treated with Botox® injection. Botox® and Restylane® can be done together if needed. Fine wrinkles are best treated with either collagen injection or a resurfacing procedure such as a chemical peel. Please visit our website for information on these other treatments!
- Injection is performed in the deep layer of skin. Restylane® fills in the crease to make it less noticeable.
- Benefit usually lasts about 6 months (compared to about 3 months for collagen) but it may remain longer in some patients.
- Patients accustomed to collagen injection may recall that some over – correction is done at the time of treatment because of water volume lost in the first 24 hours. This is not done for Restylane®. For this reason, some patients benefit from a “touch up” at their two week recheck following treatment. Any unused Restylane® from the initial session is kept for use at this time.

How is treatment performed?

- Restylane injection is a brief office procedure. It may be done at the time of your initial facial plastic surgery consultation or it may be scheduled at a later time.
- Photographs are obtained before and after treatment, as with any cosmetic procedure.
- Treatment may be performed more comfortably using a short – acting local anesthetic. Collagen actually contains anesthetic in the material but Restylane® does not. Lip enhancement requires use of anesthetic for greatest comfort.

After treatment

- Avoid massaging the areas for several days to prevent undesired spread of the Restylane®.
- There are no other specific restrictions.
- Patients are seen back two weeks later at which time “touch up” may be beneficial.
- The benefit usually lasts six months - longer in some patients and less in others. Retreatment may be performed about this time if desired.

Risks and complications

- Restylane® is a very safe treatment for creases and lip enhancement. As with anything in medicine, adverse and undesired effects may occur. Although unlikely, some of these include:
 - Allergic or other reaction to the Restylane®.
 - Asymmetry - difference in the amount of effect that the treatment has in one area or side of the face compared to another. Of course, all faces have some amount of asymmetry from one side to the other. If this occurs, it will resolve as the Restylane® is absorbed.
 - Over or under correction: wrinkles may not completely respond to correction. Or, the Restylane® may overly fill the area and create some prominence.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in your health care! Please let us know how we may make your medical experience more pleasant.

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