

fresh faced

Gillian Samuel reports on Esthélis, a 'next generation' dermal filler used to smooth lines and wrinkles and rejuvenate the face.

Applying biochemical principles to the formulation of hyaluronic acid (HA) gel dermal fillers has resulted in the incremental refinement of this product. The latest HA dermal filler, Esthélis, has been available in Australia since late last year and has already garnered adherents among aesthetic medicine practitioners.

Because hyaluronic acid fillers generally provide a longer-lasting effect than Collagen they are proving popular with many doctors and their patients. Hyaluronic acid is a substance found naturally in the connective tissue of the body that cushions and lubricates. It also creates volume in the face, giving it a healthy, youthful appearance.

Hyaluronic acid dermal fillers are classified as biphasic or monophasic. Biphasic products (such as Restylane and Hylaform) consist of gel particles of stabilised hyaluronic acid suspended in a less- or even non-stabilised hyaluronic acid fluid. In contrast, monophasic products such as Esthélis are purely stabilised (non-particulate) hyaluronic acid gels.

In addition, the body's breakdown of biphasic gels may differ from that of monophasic gels. Biphasic gels are thought to have a rapid initial degradation of the 'carrier' HA fluid and a slower degradation of the stabilised gel



particles, whereas monophasic gels are thought to degrade more uniformly. This is said to explain why some patients treated with biphasic gels initially undergo a rapid loss of considerable volume with residual 'beading' (as the carrier is degraded and only the gel particles are left).

Esthélis' unique CPM (Cohesive Polydensified Matrix) technology uses a dynamic cross-linking process that gives Esthélis remarkable elasticity and suppleness. The gel integrates easily and homogeneously into the dermis. It therefore guarantees a considerably better result from the first hours after the injection and over the initial months, in terms of increased volume and wrinkle filling.

Queensland cosmetic doctor Dr James Chen says that the texture is the major difference between the new dermal filler and older products. 'It seems easier to inject than other products, due to the CPM technology; the way that the product is cross-linked to give it greater elasticity and softness.'

Esthélis is formulated to bond with water and works by plumping up the tissues it is injected into. By mimicking the skin's natural function, the effect it creates is very natural-looking. It also means that it doesn't require allergy testing.

Western Australian facial plastic surgeon Dr Cary Kailis

says he is impressed with the new technology. 'Esthélis is a versatile dermal filler, producing natural-looking results.'

Esthélis is currently available in two formulations: Esthélis Basic and Esthélis Soft. The range also includes Esthélis Men, which is similar to Esthélis Basic. Esthélis Basic is used to fill medium-to-deep facial lines, such as naso-labial furrows, facial depressions and glabellar lines. It is also effective in lip augmentation.

Esthélis Soft is used to successfully treat particularly sensitive areas of the face and is injected into the superficial dermis. It can be used to smooth crow's feet lines around the eyes, perioral and forehead wrinkles and to define the lip line. Queensland cosmetic doctor Dr Christopher Leat says the softer and more fluid texture of Esthélis allows for more flexibility for the injector. 'If you inject a little too much it can be gently massaged into the skin without causing lumpiness.'

Esthélis Men is similar to the Basic formulation and is used to increase volume in the deep or middle dermis usually associated with more pronounced lines found in men such as facial outlines, naso-labial furrows and laughter lines.

Melbourne cosmetic surgeon Dr Joni Feldman has

more than 15 years' experience with injectables and says she has used many different dermal fillers and still does. 'The real benefit of Esthélis is the ability to inject superficially,' she says. 'And the beauty of it is that I only need one product to do the whole job. I can use one syringe for all the layers of the skin, even around the eyes.'

One treatment using Esthélis usually takes 20 minutes. Possible side effects are similar to those associated with other dermal fillers and include bruising and swelling around the injection site and erythema (usually only in very fair-skinned people).

However, according to Sydney cosmetic physician Dr Peter Bakaric, who has been using Esthélis since January this year, side effects are minimal. 'In my experience, Esthélis produces very little bruising and swelling, allowing patients to undergo the procedure in their lunch hour and return to work without colleagues noticing.'

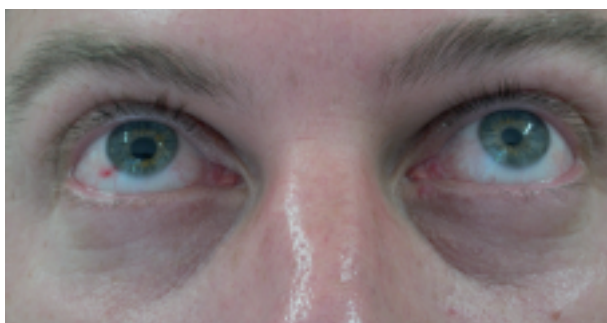
Combined with its lack of side effects, including less swelling than other dermal fillers, Esthélis appears to offer significant advantages to both the practitioner and the patient. Dr Feldman concludes, 'Esthélis is probably the most versatile product on the market.' **acsm**



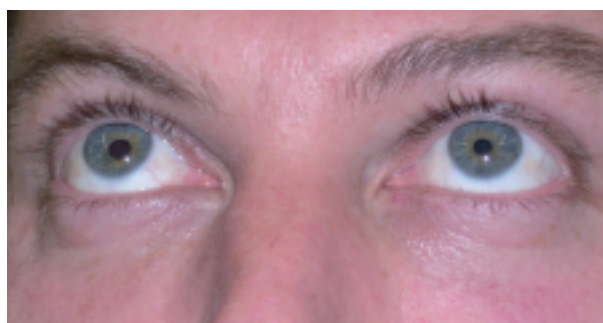
BEFORE



AFTER lip augmentation with Esthélis by Dr Bakaric



BEFORE



AFTER Esthélis injections for under-eye circles by Dr Leat