

New Soft Tissue Fillers Improve Aging— And Not-So-Aging—Skin

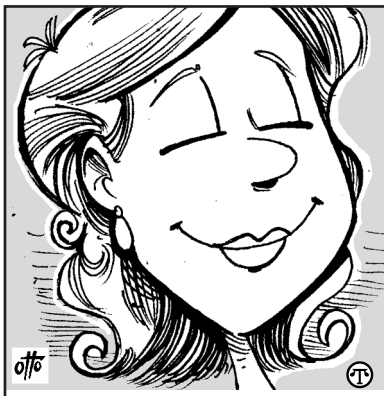
(NAPSA)—Beauty that's at least skin deep can be a lot easier to get thanks to a new crop of soft tissue fillers now—or soon to be—available in the U.S. The outstanding results and no downtime convenience of these “real-time” wrinkle erasers and scar enhancers have men and women—as young as 20—seeking out the latest hot shots from their skin surgery experts nationwide. Each filler substance brings subtle, distinctive benefits. Some provide longer-lasting results, others allow for more precision with fine lines, and still others can gradually bring the face into better balance, creating an overall rejuvenated appearance.

The medical experts at the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS) offer some insights into what may be right for you:

- **Autologous Fat:** Removed via mini liposuction from other parts of the body such as the thighs, buttocks or stomach, the patient's own fat is used to improve deep wrinkles and contour the face. This also works well on certain scars and lip lines. There's no need to worry about allergic reactions.

- **Botulinum Toxin:** While not technically a filler agent, very tiny amounts of botulinum toxin are injected into specific facial muscles to relax the underlying cause of lines and wrinkles, particularly forehead creases, furrows between the eyebrows and crow's feet.

- **Collagen:** Having first appeared nearly 20 years ago, animal collagen is one of the most effective fillers available today. It's



considered the gold standard for treatment of fine and moderate facial lines. Bovine collagen is used for plumping lips, deep lines and furrows and on mild to severe scars. A skin test is required.

- **Fascia Lata:** Originally used to raise deep scars, small pieces of the material found just under the fatty tissue are inserted under the skin to plump it. It can improve scars, augment lips and smooth wrinkles. It does not require skin testing and can be used in patients with bovine collagen allergies.

- **Hyaluronic Acid:** Made from a basic element in connective skin tissue, hyaluronic acid gel, along with collagen, is the framework skin cells live in. It works well to reshape and smooth the surface of aging skin, particularly lip lines, smile lines and drooping corners of the mouth. It's also used for fine to moderate wrinkles and most scars. The results appear to last longer than collagen and human tissue.

- **Hybrids:** Micronized plastic

spheres and collagen are blended into a permanent filler. The collagen component dissipates after a while, leaving the plastic spheres behind to shore up deep facial grooves, particularly around the mouth. It also works well for moderate to deep wrinkles and scars. Dermatologic surgeons advise injecting tiny amounts that can be built up over a few treatment sessions.

- **Human Collagen:** Bioengineered and purified from dermal tissue, formulations are mixed with an anesthetic to improve patient comfort. Resembling the properties and uses of animal collagen, human collagen is ideal for lip lines. A skin sensitivity test is not required, enabling same day treatment.

- **Liquid Silicone:** For patients suffering from dramatic weight loss, liquid silicone can fill out gaunt cheeks. It's also commonly used for depressed scars and lip augmentation.

- **Synthetics:** A new breed of synthetic compounds that contains calcium hydroxyapatite, a substance used to replace missing bone. Designed to extend the permanence of collagen techniques, it works well for areas around the nose and mouth and deeper furrows.

For more information on wrinkle-filling techniques, scar revision treatment and referrals to board-certified dermatology specialists in specific geographic areas, call the ASDS Consumer Hotline, 1-800-441-ASDS (2737), during weekday business hours or log on at www.aboutskinsurgery.org.