

INJECTABLES

There are several types of injectables that are available for patients. Generally, they are classified into the neurotoxins such as Botox, which are used to reduce wrinkles, and then the (dermal) fillers.

Fillers basically range from permanent to semipermanent to temporary. The temporary fillers are mainly the ones composed of hyaluronic acid, that is Juvederm (r), Restylane (r), and Perlane (r).

Then, you have semipermanent fillers such as Radiesse (r), which is calcium hydroxylapatite, and that is actually the mineral component of bone and teeth. It is important to note that both hyaluronic acid products, like Restylane, and the calcium hydroxylapatite products, like Radiesse (r), are natural products that are found within the human body.

Radiesse (r), being a semipermanent filler, lasts longer than Juvederm (r) or Restylane (r), some say up to maybe a year or so or perhaps longer; but more important that that, it helps generate collagen and so you will have some permanent volume enhancement after the product dissipates.

And then there are considered permanent fillers. Permanent fillers include Sculptra (r) and Bellafill (r) . These generally require more than one injection over a period of time, but can typically last a lifetime of the patient, and that is important to know because many patients wish to look younger just ask for Botox. In fact, I would tell you that I do not think Botox makes people look younger. It may make them look better and their skin more attractive, but to really restore youth you typically need to add volume and that is where these fillers come into play. (Plus, Botox just lasts about 3.5 to 4 months).

The volume we place are in areas where there is either tissue descent (or fat loss). For example, as we age the cheeks fall or a hollowing out under the eye develops. As this falls, we hollow out also in the folds, and we also hollow out in the temples and even develop wrinkles in the corner of the mouth. Botox (r) doesn't really address that.

Botox (r) addresses the wrinkles from your forehead elevation to smiling and to what we call the 11s when we frown (the vertical lines between the eyes). They both (neurotoxins and fillers) have a role of course in rejuvenation of the face, but they act much differently.

The procedures for all the injectables take generally 5 minutes to 30 minutes, depending on what we are doing. The downtime is minimal. Sometimes, there is swelling and bruising but even that is unlikely.

With Botox (r), the results generally do not kick in for three to five days as opposed to the fillers which act immediately. For instance, when someone leaves the office with Botox (r), you will not see an improvement in the wrinkles, not for three to five days.

When they leave the office with fillers, there will be an immediate result.

Products like the fillers in fact can also be used to remodel the face and improve the facial architecture. For instance, people that are generally younger, that are not aged or don't have the hollowed-out eyes, can have a more chiseled face or higher cheek bones, or even just a new look by adding volume to even the jaw line or the cheeks and temples. And that is a really interesting application of injectables that we use now.

When we do facial remodeling, some products are permanent and some are not, so we can remodel the face for six to eight months. Depending what product we use, will determine the longevity of the results.

Fat grafting is permanent and that can give you a different look with higher cheek bones or stronger jaw line permanently.

TAKE HOME POINT: Injectables range from products that reduce wrinkles such as Botox (r) to products that fill for the purpose of rejuvenation or facial remodeling.