

Liquid Facelift

THE LIQUID FACELIFT

FIVE FACTS YOU HAVE TO KNOW AND FIVE SITUATIONS TO AVOID

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Early in my career there were few options available for patients seeking facial rejuvenation. If the problem was simply loose skin then I had an answer and a solution in the form of a facelift, necklift or brow lift. Next, there was collagen for the treatment of fine lines and wrinkles. Then came new chemical peels and the introduction of laser resurfacing followed by the debut of Botox – further enabling me to reduce active wrinkle lines and to give certain patients a smoother and more wrinkle free skin. However, the last ten years has become the age of ‘dermal fillers’ as those of us practicing aesthetic medicine and surgery have gradually put the last piece of the facial aging puzzle together. What dermal fillers accomplish is the restoration of facial volume. As we age there is a gradual thinning of all of the facial tissues. As a result we may see hollowness under our eyes and in the temple area as well as flatness of the cheeks and deflation of the lips. The use of facial fillers has enabled us to address a key component of facial aging that was previously lacking.

FIVE FACTS TO KNOW

- 1** Surgery is not the only option. Most patients can benefit significantly from less invasive treatments involving the injection of dermal fillers to restore youthful facial contour. This may delay or even eliminate the need to consider surgery as an option.
- 2** The Liquid Facelift is a general term used to describe a number of procedures and techniques which use volumizing agents to restore or correct aging changes in the face. Some of these include recreating rounded cheeks, filling in the sunken areas below the orbital rims, filling in the depression in front of the jowls and restoring lip definition or volume.
- 3** Get educated. If your physician has a strong surgical bias or not much experience in injectable fillers you may not get a balanced appraisal of your options. Likewise, if you go to a non-surgeon you may only be given a non-surgical option even if surgery would be your best choice. Ultimately you are responsible for making the final decision. You should feel comfortable that you’ve explored all of your options.

4 There are many types of fillers available today. Some have greater longevity than others and some are better suited for various locations on the face. Explore these options with your physician.

5 The process of facial rejuvenation using dermal fillers is an outpatient and ‘minimal’ downtime procedure. However it may require repeated treatment sessions to attain the desired result. Additionally, it does entail some risks and these should be disclosed by your physician prior to treatment. Be informed.

FIVE SITUATIONS TO AVOID

- 1** Shop for quality-not price. Saving a few dollars will not seem like a good deal if you have unsatisfactory results or complications that could have been prevented.
- 2** Make sure to avoid any unlicensed practitioner. There is a cottage industry of unlicensed individuals offering these types of services in Florida.
- 3** Avoid treatment at Hotels, private homes, and other locations where

the injector is likely to be operating illegally. This has been shown to be a recipe for disaster.

4 Do not let anyone inject something into your body unless you are absolutely confident of what that substance is. As an example – I saw a patient recently who accompanied a friend to a house where there was a practitioner claiming to be a doctor. This patient was told she was having Restylane injected. Restylane comes in prepackaged syringes. She noted the ‘doctor’ was drawing the substance out of a large vial and it appeared oily. Then the patient was told the treatment would be permanent. Restylane is not a permanent filler. This patient now has two large prominent lumps on her face that have not gone away and is concerned that she will need surgery to correct the deformity.

5 Do not be pressured into receiving treatment or induced by special bargains. The purpose of your consultation is to express your concerns, to hear what your practitioner thinks and to hear your options. If you’re comfortable with the consultation then proceed at your own pace.

The Liquid Facelift encompasses an exciting and remarkably powerful group of techniques that can dramatically restore a youthful appearance to good candidates. Today surgery is not the only option for most patients and results should usually be good with a minimum of risk. Look for qualified practitioners with experience and commitment to aesthetic medicine and you are more than likely going to be pleased with the non-surgical approach to facial rejuvenation.

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