

This document is designed to provide information about [Hyaluronidase](#) injection, its benefits, potential risks, and alternative procedures. It is important that you read this information carefully and have all of your questions answered before signing the consent form.

**The Procedure:** Hyaluronidase is a protein enzyme used to break down and dissolve dermal fillers made of hyaluronic acid (HA). Common examples of HA based dermal filler are the family of RHA, Juvederm, and Restylane. Occasionally dermal fillers need to be dissolved when the treatment outcome is unacceptable, when an adverse reaction to the implant has occurred, or there is a possibility of vascular occlusion and/or impending necrosis (tissue death) which could lead to the compromise of healthy tissue. Hyaluronidase has an off-label use in aesthetic medicine and except in the case of emergency administration requires a skin patch test and observation for any signs of reaction (i.e. hives or wheals) at least twenty minutes prior to the procedure being undertaken. The treatment is administered by injection, but topical anaesthetic can be used to numb the skin. Your practitioner will discuss options for your comfort at consultation. The HA dermal filler begins to break down almost immediately after the injection of Hyaluronidase, often making the results visible to the patient right away. However it can take up to 14 days for the final results to be seen and additional injections may be necessary for further correction. As with all aesthetic treatments the precise degree of improvement cannot be guaranteed. Individual results may vary and the results may not be entirely predictable. The outcome's subjective nature also means dissatisfaction is a possible outcome regardless of effectiveness of treatment. Recovery time is minimal. The procedure and recovery are virtually the same as they were for the original dermal filler injection. Topical anesthetic may also be applied by your practitioner to diminish discomfort during the procedure.

**Contraindications** include, but are not limited to the following:

- Pregnancy or breastfeeding
- Skin cancer or suspicious lesions
- Poorly controlled medical conditions
- Allergies to local anesthetics
- Hypersensitivity to hyaluronidase or any other ingredients in the formulation
- Patients taking furosemide, benzodiazepines, phenytoin, dopamine and/or alpha agonists
- Impaired immune system and/or use of immunosuppressive medications
- **Patients with unrealistic expectations**

**Risks & Possible Side Effects** include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Common injection-related reactions:** These reactions include redness, swelling, pain, itching, bruising and tenderness at the injection site. They have generally been described as mild to moderate and typically resolve spontaneously a few days after injection.
- **Damage to underlying structures** including veins, nerves, muscle and other soft tissue structures are possible. Most traumatic injuries heal completely on their own. In rare cases this could cause continuous problems in appearance, sensation or function and may require medical intervention to treat or may be permanent.
- **Reactions:** Allergic reactions including anaphylactic shock are possible.
- **Side Effects:** Hyaluronidase dissolves hyaluronic acid including molecules made by your body and previous treatments that you may wish to preserve could also be dissolved. You therefore could notice a reduction in skin elasticity and volume and associated asymmetry which typically would last a few days.
- **Treatment Failure:** It is possible that the procedure will fail to remedy the problem as often HA is not the sole cause of lumps, bumps or reactions. which may be caused by other materials.
- **Complications from infection:** There is a small risk of introducing an infection, and a theoretical risk that pre-existing infection could spread further if hyaluronidase is injected into the area, risking septicaemia though there are no recorded cases.
- **Dissatisfaction:** As with all aesthetic treatments the precise degree of improvement cannot be guaranteed. Additional treatments may be necessary to obtain the desired results, and further charges will apply if more product is required.

Although the majority of patients do not experience any side effects and/or complications, you should discuss each of the above with your practitioner to make sure you understand the limitations, risks, potential complications of Hyaluronidase injections.

**Alternative Procedures:** Consult your practitioner regarding alternative procedures to Hyaluronidase injections.



**Pre / Post Care Instructions** Compliance with the recommended pre / post-care instructions as well as recommended follow-up visits by your practitioner are crucial in minimizing the risk of side effects and complications. **It is your responsibility to inform your practitioner of your most recent sun exposure, new medications, or changes in medical history before each treatment is performed.**

#### **Before your treatment**

- Alcohol, aspirin, Ibuprofen and a range of dietary supplements including; St. Johns Wort, Omega 6 oils, Garlic, Gingko Biloba, Vitamins C and E-supplements may all contribute to bruising and are best avoided 5 days before treatment.
- Treatment cannot be administered if there is an active skin infection, including acne or cold sores or if you are unwell- including colds, coughs, sore throats etc. Do contact the clinic to discuss any illness or new medicines prior to attending.
- If you are receiving the treatment to correct unsatisfactory results, you will be given a test dose (a small injection on your forearm) and observed for a minimum of 20 minutes, to identify any sensitivity which may indicate allergy to Hyaluronidase. If symptoms of sensitivity are observed then treatment cannot proceed.

#### **Day of Procedure**

- Arrive with clean skin free of any lotion, oil, makeup, powder, or sunscreen.
- Notify your practitioner of any changes in your medication, or health status, or personal activities that may be relevant to your treatment.
- Topical numbing cream or small lidocaine injections may be administered to maximize your comfort during the treatment.

#### **After Your Treatment**

- Most people are able to continue with normal activities with immediate improvement in their appearance. Some will have some redness, pin prick marks, possibly swelling- particularly in the lips. Possibly bruising. Any swelling and bruising may be more apparent the next day.
- Makeup should not be worn for 12 hours
- You are advised to vigorous exercise, sun bathing, and extremes of heat or cold for 14 days post treatment. These activities have been found to increase and prolong swelling.
- Swelling may worsen in the first 24 hours, and then settle within the first few days. Cold packs can be helpful in reducing swelling. Due to swelling, and the action of the Hyaluronidase you may notice some asymmetry. The final result may be assessed at 2 weeks.
- Bruising may take a few days to appear, arnica can be helpful in clearing bruising. It is advisable to avoid aspirin and alcohol for 12-48 hours after treatment. Tenderness should settle as swelling goes down.
- Please contact your practitioner if redness, tenderness, itching or swelling worsens after 3 days, rather than settling.
- Hyaluronidase is an enzyme which breaks down hyaluronic acid fillers, but it can also break down naturally occurring hyaluronic acid present in the body. The results can be unpredictable and the effect dramatic with possible loss of volume and some skin laxity. Although some of the effects can be immediate, it can take up to 2 weeks for the final results to be seen and the procedure may need to be repeated. Any over correction resulting from the loss of your own hyaluronic acid will usually be temporary and is expected to recover within a few days. The breakdown of the dermal filler will be permanent.
- Hyaluronidase administration can result in anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction) which in itself is life threatening and requires immediate medical attention. Symptoms of a severe allergic reaction can include shortness of breath, wheezing, coughing, difficulty swallowing, swelling of the tongue, eyelids, lips, hoarseness of the voice, stomach pain, nausea or diarrhoea. If you have any of the above symptoms please report to your nearest Accident and Emergency Department or call 911.

**If you experience any side effects, such as prolonged discomfort or swelling, or infection, immediately contact your practitioner for proper assessment and care instructions.**