



by Joseph W. Sharlow, MD, FACS

Juvéderm Frequently Asked Questions

What Is Juvéderm?

Juvéderm is the only hyaluronic acid filler with FDA approval to last up to one year. Juvéderm helps to instantly restore your skin's volume and smooth away facial wrinkles and folds like your "smile lines" or "parentheses" (nasolabial folds – the creases that run from the bottom of your nose to the corners of your mouth). Juvéderm comes in two formulations – Juvéderm Ultra and Juvéderm Ultra Plus. Juvéderm also provides for an excellent restoration of volume to your lips.

What Does Juvéderm Do?

Juvéderm injectable gel temporarily adds volume to facial tissue and restores a smooth appearance to the face.

Why Does Juvéderm Come In Two Formulations?

Juvéderm injectable gel is available in two formulations to allow your physician to tailor treatment to your unique needs. Juvéderm Ultra provides versatility in contouring and volumizing facial wrinkles, folds and lips. Juvéderm Ultra Plus is a more robust formulation for volumizing and correcting deeper folds, wrinkles and lips.

What Will The Treatment Accomplish?

Juvéderm injectable gel will help to smooth moderate to severe facial wrinkles and folds. Most patients need one treatment to achieve optimal wrinkle smoothing and one treatment could smooth your lines and wrinkles for up to 9 months to 12+ months depending on which formulation is used.

What Are The Possible Side Effects?

Most side effects are mild or moderate in nature, and their duration is short lasting (7 days or less). The most common side effects include, but are not limited to, temporary injection-site reactions such as redness, pain/tenderness, firmness, swelling, lumps/bumps, bruising, itching, and discoloration. As with all skin injection procedures, there is a risk of infection.

Are The Injections Painful?

Injections may cause some discomfort during and after the injection. Juvéderm is injected directly into the skin using a fine needle to reduce injection discomfort. Local injectable anesthetic is often used to make the procedure more comfortable.

Does The Correction Last Forever?

No. Correction is temporary; therefore, touch-up injections as well as repeat injections are usually needed to maintain optimal correction.

How Much Does It Cost?

Treatments are customized based upon your goals. During your free and private consultation, your physician will work with you to develop a treatment plan that meets your needs.



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Radiesse Frequently Asked Questions

What Is Radiesse?

Radiesse is an FDA-approved soft tissue filler that provides immediate correction for loss of facial volume due to aging. Radiesse combines immediate correction with longevity that approaches two years or more and thus stands apart and above most other tissue fillers. Radiesse thus allows for correction that can be viewed as a non-surgical facelift.

What Sets Radiesse Apart From Other Fillers And How Does It Work?

Radiesse is semi-permanent filler that acts as a volume replacement agent and lasts months beyond that of currently approved soft-tissue fillers such as collagen and hyaluronic acid. Radiesse is the only commonly used tissue filler that combines with your body's own collagen and induces collagen growth. The unique composition of Radiesse allows for immediate visual improvement common with other fillers, but has the benefit of long lasting results. Radiesse is manufactured by BioForm Medical. It is composed of calcium hydroxylapatite (CaHa) suspended in an aqueous gel. These unique advantages make Radiesse the ideal choice for facial shaping and contouring.

How Long Will Radiesse Last?

Radiesse provides a correction that lasts one to two years, depending on where the filler is injected on the face. As always, individual results may vary. Clinical effects may start to diminish in nine months, however, a touch-up will last anywhere from 9-18 months before additional touch-ups will be needed.

Does It Hurt?

Since patient reactions vary, an injectable anesthetic will be administered prior to the Radiesse treatment. Therefore, the actual Radiesse treatments are relatively pain-free thereafter.

How Quickly Can I Return To My Normal Activities?

Approximately twenty-four (24) hours following Radiesse treatments, most swelling or redness will have subsided. Some patients return to work immediately following the treatments, while others prefer to wait twenty-four (24) hours. This is considered a relatively no downtime procedure.

Is Radiesse Permanent?

No. The gel carrier dissipates over a few months allowing for new tissue infiltration. The CaHa particles gradually break down and are metabolized over two to three years.

Will Radiesse Become Hard Or Noticeable To Touch?

No. Radiesse will remain soft and pliable and will take on the characteristics of the surrounding soft tissue.

Will Radiesse Migrate To Other Parts Of The Body?

No. Numerous studies have proven that the newly formed collagen keeps the filler from migrating to other organs or tissues.

Will I Need A Skin Test?

No pretesting is required due to Radiesse's unique synthetic product formulation and biocompatibilities.

What is Radiesse Composed Of?

Radiesse is composed of thirty percent (30%) synthetic calcium hydroxylapatite (CaHa) microspheres suspended in a seventy percent (70%) gel carrier. CaHa is a biomaterial with over twenty (20) years of use in orthopedics, neurosurgery, dentistry and ophthalmology, and is the primary mineral constituent of bone and teeth. The semi-solid nature of Radiesse is created by suspended CaHa in a common water based carrier. CaHa is also used in a large array of products and is naturally compatible with the body. It has been tested intensively in clinical tests for over seven (7) years now with proven safety and effectiveness.

How Many Treatments Will I Require?

Some patients may achieve optimal correction on their first treatment. For most patients, an optimal result will require touch-up injections within three (3) months.

Are There Any Side Effects?

Radiesse has demonstrated safety, with no evidence of systemic adverse effects and a five percent (5%) incidence of hematoma and bruising. These effects are temporary and easily covered with makeup. Common injection-related reactions may occur, such as swelling, pain, itching, and tenderness at the injection sites. All of these reactions are temporary.

What If I Am Taking Medications?

Radiesse should not be implanted in patients while on an aspirin regimen or while taking other medications that prolong the bleeding time or interfere with the normal clotting mechanism. It is recommended that patients do not take aspirin or other medication that may prolong bleeding time for at least one (1) week before Radiesse will be administered.

Can Radiesse Be Injected Over Other Implants?

Radiesse should not be implanted in patients with other implants or materials still in place. If you have other implants or materials, please discuss this with your medical consultant.

How Much Does It Cost?

Treatments are customized based upon your goals. During your free and private consultation, your physician will work with you to develop a treatment plan that meets your needs.

Bellafill Frequently Asked Questions

What is Bellafill

Bellafill is a smooth collagen-based dermal filler with polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) microspheres. The collagen gel in Bellafill provides immediate volume and lift to correct wrinkles and/or acne scarring. The PMMA microspheres remain in place and create a base that provides structural support for smoother-looking skin.

How long does it last?

Satisfaction and effectiveness for the correction of nasolabial folds have been established through 5 years. Effectiveness for the correction of acne scars has been proven through 12 months.

What are the microspheres in Bellafill made of?

The microspheres are made of polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA), a biocompatible material that has been used in medical implants for 65 years.

How does it work?

The collagen in Bellafill provides immediate volume and lift. Over time, the collagen is reabsorbed while the PMMA microspheres remain in place and create a base that provides structural support for smoother-looking skin.

Will it work for me?

Bellafill was shown to work equally well with all skin types, and in men and women.

Is it safe?

Bellafill has been proven safe through 5 years in the largest and longest prospective dermal filler study ever conducted.

When will I see results?

Bellafill replaces lost volume in the skin below the wrinkle for correction that is immediate and lasting.

What's the downtime?

You can return to normal activities right away. You may experience temporary swelling, redness, pain, bruising, lumps/bumps, itching, and discoloration at the treatment site. These side effects are usually transient and typically resolve within 1–7 days.

Who can receive treatment with Bellafill

Patients must be 21 years of age or older, and receive the required skin test prior to treatment. In clinical studies, Bellafill was shown to work in all skin types, and in men and women. If you have a history of severe allergies, have known bovine collagen allergies, are allergic to lidocaine, have bleeding disorders, or are prone to thick scar formation and/or excessive scarring, please let us know.

How long has Bellafill been available in the U.S.?

Bellafill was FDA approved in October 2006 (under the name ArteFill®) for treating nasolabial folds. In December 2014, Bellafill was approved by the FDA for the correction of moderate to severe atrophic, distensible facial acne scars on the cheek in patients over the age of 21 years.