



DEEP LINES

WRINKLES IN THE LOWER HALF OF THE FACE, DEEP LINES FROM THE NOSE TO THE MOUTH

THE TREATMENT: Injectable fillers — again, either hyaluronic acid formulations like Restylane and Juvéderm, or human collagen formulations like CosmoPlast.

HOW IT WORKS: As with lip treatments, the filler is injected via a needle into the lines around the mouth.

BENEFITS: The effect is immediate.

NEGATIVES: Often, lower facial lines are accompanied by some sagging, so a filler alone may not be enough. "We can deal with the lines in isolation, but it's much more effective to address both issues," explains Cassetta, who says injecting the concave area around the mouth with Sculptra, a poly-L-lactic acid, works as a dermal stimulator, helping to build collagen over a couple of months.

DOWNTIME: Most people are fine to go straight

BENEFITS: With a local anaesthetic, it's a relatively low-pain procedure.

NEGATIVES: Over-emphasis can create a hard-edged, duck-beak effect. Stay within the realm of what will look natural for your features. "You can't change a thin-lipped person into an Angelina Jolie, though you can certainly take them in that direction," explains Marilyn Cassetta, from Silkwood Medical in Bondi Junction.

DOWNTIME: Very little; it's usually a lunchtime procedure. You will, however, need to ice your lips post-injection for five or 10 minutes. Some people may find that swelling persists into the next day. In some cases, bruising may occur and last for up to a week.

COST: Expect to pay at least \$600 for either definition or volume — double if you want both. Keep in mind, too, that you may need two or three treatments to achieve your desired look.

HOW LONG IT LASTS: Up to six months for collagen injections, and eight months for hyaluronic acid fillers. "But you might want to add a bit more after four or five months," says Cassetta, to maintain a consistently natural look. Cassetta adds that extremely athletic patients may find collagen injections metabolise very quickly: "Collagen is a protein, which the body eats for breakfast," she says. "Hyaluronic acids seem to take longer to break down."