

# Which is the Best Dermal Filler?

Dermal fillers are miracle substances that are injected just beneath the skin to boost volume, suppleness and smoothness. Fillers can improve facial contours and reduce the appearance of aging. More than 1 million men and women opt for this noninvasive beauty treatment each year.

To keep up with the ever-increasing demand for fillers, competition has become fierce. There are so many dermal filler brands on the market today. While a wider selection is preferable to a narrow selection, it can also be completely overwhelming.

Which dermal filler will give you the best results for the best price?

Let's briefly discuss what dermal fillers are, and compare the different types of dermal fillers that are on the market. Then, we shine a light on various dermal fillers, one at a time, revealing their strengths and weaknesses. We have also compiled a dermal filler guide based on your treatment site.

After the analyses, we will determine what your best dermal filler option really is.

## What are dermal fillers and what is treatment like?

Dermal fillers are FDA-approved injectable substances used to plump or fill soft tissue. They are FDA-approved and absorbed by the body over time.

Dermal fillers are known for their versatility. When patients just want to look a little better, dermal fillers are probably the solution. Fillers can:

- Smooth out lines around the nose and mouth
- Restore and build volume in sunken or hollow cheeks
- Lift and volumize sagging temples or jawline
- Plump and reshape the lips
- Smooth out a chin crease
- Improve symmetry across the face
- Fill in some types of scarring

Patients love fillers because they can see results immediately after treatment -- no waiting or downtime necessary.

### *The difference between Botox and dermal fillers*

[Botox](#) is another FDA-approved cosmetic injection. Both dermal fillers and Botox are used to reverse signs of aging and enhance beauty, but they work differently.

While [Botox](#) “freezes” muscles to reduce muscle contraction, and therefore wrinkles, dermal fillers are injectable implants. They “fill” in wrinkles, divots, and other imperfections to make skin look smooth and healthy.

## Different Types of Dermal Filler

Even with a basic understanding of dermal fillers, navigating which type of filler you want can be difficult. Here are the different categories of dermal fillers:

1. **Hyaluronic acid filler:** Hyaluronic acid is naturally produced by the body, and can be found within your skin and cartilage. Hyaluronic acid fillers are soft and gel-like. They keep the skin plump and hydrated, and last for 6-12 months. Hyaluronic acid fillers include:
  - a. [Juvéderm](#) products
  - b. Restylane products
  - c. Belotero Balance
2. **Calcium hydroxylapatite filler:** Calcium hydroxylapatite is a mineral that is found naturally in our bones. In this type of filler, the calcium particles are suspended in a smooth gel that is thicker than a hyaluronic acid filler. This type of filler stimulates natural collagen production and is best for deeper lines and wrinkles. Calcium hydroxylapatite fillers last for up to 18 months. Radiesse is an example of this type of filler.
3. **Poly-L-lactic acid filler:** Poly-L-lactic acid is a biodegradable synthetic material that is also used to make medical products, such as dissolvable stitches. This type of filler is classified as a “collagen stimulator,” because the actual filler gel dissipates within a few days after treatment. It lasts up to two years. Sculptra is a Poly-L-lactic acid filler.
4. **Polymethylmethacrylate filler:** Another synthetic but biocompatible substance that is used in other areas of medicine, polymethylmethacrylate beads are only used around the mouth. This type of filler cannot be absorbed by the body, and instead produces permanent results. It forms a ball that boosts and plumps the skin, while also stimulating natural collagen production. Bellafill is an example of polymethylmethacrylate filler.
5. **Autologous fat filler:** This type of filler requires surgery, but there are undeniable benefits. This type of filler utilizes your body’s own fat, and the results can last for many years. The fat is harvested from another area of your body. It is purified and then injected into the face to volumize the cheeks, temples, eyelids and more.
  - a. Platelet-rich plasma is another type of autologous filler -- instead of fat, platelet-rich plasma, harvested from your own body, is injected into the face. Effects last 12-18 months.
6. **Collagen filler:** Today’s collagen fillers are synthetic. The injections do not last as long as other wrinkle fillers, but the results are natural-looking. Examples of collagen injections include:
  - a. Cosmoderm
  - b. Evolence
  - c. Fibrel

- d. Zyderm
- e. Zyplast

## *How long does each type of filler last?*

How long your dermal filler treatment lasts depends not only on the product but also the area of treatment and your unique body. In general, denser products last longer. The deeper the injection, the longer-lasting the results.

Usually, hyaluronic acid fillers are more temporary than other options, lasting 6-18 months. Synthetic fillers last a little longer, because they are absorbed very slowly or not absorbed at all. Fat injections should last the longest of all. Although some of the fat will not survive, you should retain most of the result permanently or semi-permanently.

We'll cover how long each brand of filler is expected to last in the sections below.<sup>1</sup>

## *What about combining dermal fillers?*

Some experts will tell you that the best and most natural-looking results require a combination of different fillers. Each dermal filler performs best in particular treatment areas. If you want to improve your face as a whole, your doctor may recommend a combination of a few dermal filler types.<sup>2</sup>

# Factors to consider when choosing your dermal filler

<b>Treatment</b>	The type of dermal filler you choose will depend largely on the type of treatment you want. The thin under eye area will call for a different filler than hollow cheeks or deep forehead lines. Note that there is a lot of overlap with filler capabilities.
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<sup>1</sup>

<https://www.americanboardcosmeticsurgery.org/procedure-learning-center/non-surgical/injectable-fillers-guide/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.self.com/story/dermal-fillers>

<b>Lifespan</b>	The lifespan of a dermal filler affects your investment and your decision. Different brands have varying life spans. Keep in mind that all filler lifespans will vary from person to person, and from treatment area to treatment area (for example, the mouth area has a lot of movement and therefore results in a shorter filler lifespan).
<b>Cost</b>	For just about everyone, budget does factor into the filler they choose.
<b>Filler strengths</b>	Each filler has a special trademark – a reason why it is different from other filler options.
<b>Filler weaknesses</b>	There is no such thing as a perfect dermal filler. Patients must choose which filler weaknesses are acceptable based on their needs.

Let's cover each of the points above in a side-by-side comparison below. We will cover Radiesse, [Juvéderm](#), Restylane, Teosyal, and Sculptra.

## Radiesse®

Radiesse is made up of a calcium hydroxyapatite (CaHA) gel. The gel is made up of hydrogen, oxygen, and carbon. These elements absorb into the body and generate collagen production for more youthful skin.

**Treatment:** Radiesse was approved by the FDA in 2006 to treat nasolabial folds. Radiesse is now used to improve volume loss in the face, as well as to hide veins and wrinkles on the hands! It is also good for filling in acne scars and recontouring the jawline.

**Lifespan:** Years of rigorous clinical studies have shown that Radiesse lasts longer than the former leading filler.<sup>[i]</sup> It usually lasts from a year to 18 months on average.<sup>[iii]</sup>

**Cost:** Radiesse filler generally costs more per syringe than other fillers, because it is long-lasting and requires few treatments in many cases.<sup>[iii]</sup>

**Filler strengths:** Because Radiesse is CaHA instead of hyaluronic acid, like most other fillers are, it allows the body to produce its own collagen, and lasts about twice as long as hyaluronic acid fillers.

**Filler weaknesses:** Radiesse is a thicker solution, which can cause granuloma, or lumps under the skin if it is used in the wrong places, like beneath the eyes. Keep in mind all fillers have their own side effects and risks, and the risks of Radiesse are not any greater than other risks associated with other fillers.

## Juvéderm®

[Juvéderm](#) is a well-known hyaluronic acid filler. It increases water absorption and therefore increases the volume of the skin.

**Treatment:** Juvéderm has the following products within the brand:

- Juvéderm Voluma XC: Adds volume to lift and contour the cheek area.
- Juvéderm Ultra XC: Fills and smooths light to moderate nasolabial folds, lips, marionette lines, and perioral lines. Reshapes lips and boosts volume.
- Juvéderm Volbella XC: Adds volume to the lips and softens lip lines.
- Juvéderm Vollure XC: Smooths around the nose and mouth area.
- Juvéderm Ultra Plus XC: Treats moderate to severe wrinkles, nasolabial folds, or volume loss.

**Lifespan:** Juvéderm injections can last anywhere from 9 months to 2 years, depending on the type of Juvéderm and the individual.

**Cost:** Juvéderm is often the most affordable dermal filler selection. The cost ranges widely, but the average of each syringe is around \$620, according to the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.[\[iv\]](#)

**Filler strengths:** Juvéderm is notably the “most hydrophilic” due to the highest concentration of hyaluronic acid, making it good for a little extra plumping.

**Filler weaknesses:** This same hydrophilic property that makes Juvéderm good for plumping may also result in spreading or extra swelling. This can occur with any dermal filler, but is more commonly seen with Juvéderm.[\[v\]](#)

## Restylane®

Restylane is a clear gel formation which is formulated to act like your body's naturally-produced hyaluronic acid. It corrects facial wrinkles, folds and lines, and can plump up the lips as well.

**Treatment:** Restylane can be used to treat around the eyes, tear troughs, lips, frown lines, crow's feet, brow lines and perioral area.

- Restylane Refyne: Used for mild to moderate wrinkles and general lines.
- Restylane Defyne: Treats moderate to severe smile lines.
- Restylane Lyft: Fills areas of the face like cheeks and temples.
- Restylane Silk: Used primarily as a lip filler.

**Lifespan:** Results of Restylane can last up to 18 months, depending on the type of filler used and the individual.

**Cost:** Restylane costs between \$400 and \$800 per syringe.[\[vi\]](#)

**Filler strengths:** Restylane is made up of particularly small hyaluronic acid molecules, which is better for smoothing fine lines and wrinkles. Its smooth formula also has a lesser incidence of bumps or lumps, making it suitable for thin areas of skin like the undereye area.

**Filler weaknesses:** Other fillers, like Juvéderm, have higher concentrations of hyaluronic acid as compared to Restylane, making Restylane less effective in some cases.

## Teosyal®

Teoxane's Teosyal filler offers a range of 100% non-animal origin hyaluronic fillers.

**Treatment:** Teosyal can be used all over the face, lips, cheeks, forehead, and even in the delicate skin around the eyes. It can also be used to fill the neck and neckline.[\[vii\]](#)

- Teosyal Kiss is designed to maintain soft form in the lips over a long period of time
- Teosyal Ultra Deep restores volume in larger areas like the cheeks or jawline

**Lifespan:** Teosyal lasts between 9 months and 1 year, and is considered one of the longer-lasting hyaluronic acid injectable fillers on the market.[\[viii\]](#)

**Cost:** The cost of Teosyal starts at \$499 per syringe and can get to about \$699 per syringe, depending on the number of units injected as well as the place where you receive it.[\[ix\]](#)

**Filler strengths:** Teosyal is a popular tear trough filler due to its thin and smooth texture. The Teosyal-patented formula consists of cross-linked hyaluronic acid molecules hold together

longer and in a more structured way. The formula helps Teosyal hold its shape better in high-movement areas like around the mouth, brows or eyes.

**Filler weaknesses:** Teosyal® is slightly newer than well-known fillers like Juvéderm, and fewer providers in the US offer it. It may also be slightly more expensive.

## Sculptra®

Sculptra is different from Restylane and Juvéderm because it is made from Poly-L-Lactic Acid, not hyaluronic acid. This synthetic compound encourages the body's natural production of new collagen.

**Treatment:** Sculptra is approved to treat the following:

- Sunken cheeks
- Sunken or hollow areas of the face
- Folds and lines
- Diminish cellulite
- Enhance the buttocks[\[x\]](#)

**Lifespan:** Outcomes vary from patient to patient, but Sculptra results can last as long as two years. Many patients need several treatments for better results.

**Cost:** The average cost of a Sculptra treatment session is about \$1,500.

**Filler strengths:** Sculptra lasts longer than other filler types. Some patients feel that it is more natural because it boosts the body's natural collagen production. It produces very natural-looking results.

**Filler weaknesses:** Sculptra does not produce an instant result, but takes weeks or months to fully develop.

## The RHA® Collection

The RHA Collection is a series of resilient “designer” fillers. RHA is the only FDA-approved hyaluronic acid filler for dynamic wrinkles and folds.

**Treatment:** RHA can treat wrinkles caused by movements like squinting, frowning, laughing and talking. It can also increase facial volume.

- RHA 2: Fills mild wrinkles, such as lines in the lips or around the face. It can also plump the lips.
- RHA 3: This filler targets deeper wrinkles around the nasolabial area, corners of the lips, and jowls.
- RHA 4: This filler is perfect for deep wrinkles in the cheeks or jowls. It can also contour the cheeks and jawline.

**Lifespan:** RHA lasts between 9 and 18 months. Result lifespan will depend on the age and lifestyle of the individual, as well as the area of treatment.

**Cost:** Although it is marked as a “designer brand,” RHA fillers cost similarly to other fillers -- about \$700 to \$850 per syringe, depending on practice.

**Filler strengths:** It can be difficult to treat dynamic areas of the face with filler without making them look stiff. RHA is designed to be more like real hyaluronic acid, so dynamic areas around the eyes and mouth can be given a natural and lineless look.

**Filler weaknesses:** If you want to remedy static lines rather than dynamic lines, your provider may recommend a different filler. RHA is also a newer filler brand that may be harder to find in your area.

## Bellafill®

Bellafill is not a temporary filler like Restylane, Juvéderm or collagen. Bellafill is a synthetic substance that is not absorbed by the body, so the results are semi-permanent for long-lasting wrinkle correction.

**Treatment:** Bellafill can support almost any area of the face. Bellafill treatments include:

- Lip augmentation
- Smile lines
- Laugh lines
- Nasolabial folds
- Eyelid bags or tear troughs

**Lifespan:** Bellafill lasts so long because it 1) provides nonabsorbable microspheres to support the face and 2) encourages the skin to produce more collagen. Most patients see results for 2-5 years.

**Cost:** Most patients undergo 1-4 initial Bellafill treatment sessions. One syringe of Bellafill costs between \$900 and \$1500.

**Filler strengths:** Because it is so long-lasting, Bellafill can be a less expensive and more convenient option for patients who want to feel more confident.



**Filler weaknesses:** While “semi-permanent” will sound like a lifesaver to many patients, others may cringe at the idea. If the outcome is not what the patient hoped for, the patient can either have the Bellafill surgically removed or wait years until the results wear off.<sup>3</sup>

## Revanesse Versa®

Revanesse [Versa](#) is a hyaluronic acid filler that is similar to Juvéderm, except it utilizes cross-linking technology. This cross-linking technology is easier to inject, resulting in a more natural feel and aesthetic.

**Treatment:** Revanesse [Versa](#) smooths fine lines and wrinkles. It can be applied to the under eye, forehead folds, glabellar lines, bridge of the nose, laugh lines, lips, nasolabial folds, chin, jaw and cheeks.

- Revanesse Pure nourishes and moisturizes the skin, and helps restore elasticity.
- Revanesse Ultra treats mid-to-deep wrinkles and restores volume.
- Revanesse Contour gives your face the shape and contours you want.
- Revanesse Shape treats very deep folds, wrinkles and lines.
- Revanesse Kiss is designed to define and augment the lips.<sup>4</sup>

**Lifespan:** This filler provides long-lasting results that break down very gradually. The results of just one Revanesse [Versa](#) treatment can last up to 6 months, while Revanesse Kiss can last 10-14 months.

**Cost:** A typical Revanesse treatment could cost \$500 or more. This figure will vary based on location, provider and treatment type.

**Filler strengths:** Revanesse Versa lasts longer and does not break down as quickly as other common fillers. It is also versatile and can be applied anywhere on the face.

**Filler weaknesses:** While lidocaine is infused into most filler syringes to boost patient comfort, there is no lidocaine in the Revanesse syringe. However, your provider can ensure your comfort with other measures.

## PRP Natural Dermal Fillers

Platelet rich plasma (PRP) is quickly becoming one of the most popular natural treatments for rejuvenating the skin. PRP is the organic alternative to cosmetic dermal fillers, using the patient’s own blood to make the skin strong and youthful.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.utahfacialplastics.com/2015/09/23/bellafill-is-the-longest-lasting-filler-worth-it/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.realself.com/nonsurgical/revanesse>

PRP is found within the blood. It contains growth factors which stimulate the skin to repair and restore tissues naturally.

**Treatment:** PRP injections help restore or enhance areas that need more volume. It can be used to:

- Diminish glabellar lines
- Reduce forehead lines
- Improve the appearance of crow's feet
- Diminish nasolabial folds
- Reduce smile lines
- Treat acne scars

**Lifespan:** PRP treatments might be delivered via monthly injections for three consecutive months, but results last between nine months and two years.

**Cost:** The costs for PRP injections can range from \$500 to \$2,000.<sup>5</sup>

**Filler strengths:** The most natural filler in the world is your own! There are fewer allergic reactions and faster skin rejuvenation, as well as a long-lasting result.<sup>6</sup>

**Filler weaknesses:** There aren't many drawbacks to PRP fillers, besides the monthly administration for the first three months. Other dermal fillers only require one session every six months or so and deliver instant results.

## Belotero®

Belotero is a newer filler option, which is formulated and structured differently than other hyaluronic fillers. Belotero is thinner and more fluid than other similar fillers, and it utilizes cross-linking to produce superior effects.

**Treatment:** Belotero Balance is amazing for treating tear troughs and under-eye bags. It can also smooth out moderate nasolabial folds and other moderate lines and wrinkles around the mouth.

- Belotero Balance and Belotero Basic treat subtle to moderate lines and can be used for lip enhancement
- Belotero Soft is used for fine lines and lip enhancement

**Lifespan:** Belotero can last for 6-12 months.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/320107>

<sup>6</sup>

<https://prasadcosmeticsurgery.com/news/dr-amiya-prasad-nyc-new-york-natural-dermal-fillers-using-platelet-rich-plasma-prp/#:~:text=PRP%20contains%20growth%20factors%20which,folds%20and%20even%20acne%20scars.>

**Cost:** Belotero costs an average of \$651 per treatment.

**Filler strengths:** Belotero is ideal for filling superficial lines, creases and wrinkles. Because of its unique formulation, Belotero is less likely to create bumps and lumps under the skin than other fillers.

**Filler weaknesses:** Juvederm or Restylane are preferable to Belotero for deeper or more severe lines and wrinkles, due to their thicker formulas.<sup>7</sup>

## Derma! Filler Guide based on Treatment Site

Here is a list, inspired by [Byrdie.com](http://Byrdie.com), of which filler you should get based on which site(s) you would like to treat. Keep in mind that this list is not comprehensive, and your doctor will be a better resource for helping you determine what will work best for you.

Treatment Site	Best Dermal Fillers
Cheekbones	<p>The key is a high G Prime and larger particle size for an ample lift.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Juv�derm Voluma XC</li><li>• Restylane Lyft</li><li>• Juv�derm Ultra XC for thin skin</li><li>• Radiesse</li><li>• Sculptra</li></ul>
Chin	<p>A thick filler helps the chin project further for best results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Juv�derm Voluma XC</li><li>• Juv�derm Ultra XC</li><li>• Restylane Lyft</li><li>• Radiesse</li></ul>
Nasolabial folds	<p>These lines need a finer particle size for a smooth outcome.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Restylane</li><li>• Juv�derm Ultra XC</li><li>• Juv�derm Vollure XC</li><li>• Belotero</li><li>• Sculptra</li></ul>
Lips	<p>A long-lasting hybrid filler is best for a lip that looks and feels natural.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Juv�derm Volbella XC</li><li>• Restylane Refyne</li><li>• Juv�derm Ultra XC</li><li>• Teosyal Kiss</li></ul>

<sup>7</sup> <https://spablack.com/how-belotero-balance-differs-from-other-dermal-fillers/>

Jawline	<p>The jawline needs a thicker filler to ensure significant definition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Juvéderm Ultra XC</li> <li>• Juvéderm Voluma XC</li> <li>• Restylane Defyne</li> <li>• Restylane Lyft</li> <li>• Radiesse</li> </ul>
Under-eye/Tear trough	<p>This delicate area needs a filler that will not draw too much water or create bumps under the skin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restylane</li> <li>• Revanesse Versa</li> </ul>

## Tips for the best dermal fillers possible

What can you do personally to get the best results from your dermal fillers?

1. Remember that a lower-cost filler might be a lesser product for one reason or another, so educate yourself about which sacrifices you are willing to make for price.
2. Only trust an experienced professional, and only receive dermal fillers in a medical setting.
3. Choose a provider that you trust and whose style aligns with your own. Schedule a consultation through [HIPAA compliant texting](#), [telehealth](#) or in-person.
4. After treatment, use sunscreen daily to preserve the filler and protect against post-inflammatory pigment changes.

## And the best dermal filler is...

The best filler isn't necessarily Juvéderm, Sculptra, or PRP. The secret to the best dermal filler? Your injector.

You can probably achieve your desired look with a few different dermal filler brands. The deciding factor in your final result is the injector you choose. A skilled injector can work wonders with any FDA-approved filler on the market.

Choose a provider with:

- An extensive knowledge of facial anatomy
- An eye for detail
- Unwavering precision

- Before-and-after photos that you love

Your research and consultation will tell you a lot about your upcoming dermal filler experience and outcomes. With the right practitioner, you will reduce the risk of side effects and complications, and ensure the best and longest-lasting dermal filler results. [\[xi\]](#)

You can find a provider through [HIPAA texting](#) or [telehealth](#). Choose a provider with training, experience, and results that set you at ease. Then trust them to recommend the best dermal filler for YOU based on your unique beauty goals! [\[xii\]](#)

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[\[i\]](#) <https://www.enhancedimagecenter.com/radiesse-faqs#:~:text=Radiesse%20is%20a%20safe%20C%20non,around%20the%20nose%20and%20mouth.>

[\[ii\]](#) <https://www.infobloom.com/what-are-the-pros-and-cons-of-radiesse-filler.htm>

[\[iii\]](#) <https://www.infobloom.com/what-are-the-pros-and-cons-of-radiesse-filler.htm>

[\[iv\]](#) <https://www.healthline.com/health/juvederm-cost#:~:text=Juv%C3%A9derm%20is%20a%20dermal%20filler,Society%20for%20Aesthetic%20Plastic%20Surgery.>

[\[v\]](#) <https://l1p.co.uk/what-brand-of-dermal-filler-is-the-best/>

[\[vi\]](#) [https://www.google.com/search?q=Restylane@+cost&rlz=1C1CHBF\\_enUS816US816&oq=Restylane@+cost&aqs=chrome..69i57j35i39l2j0i67j0i433j69i60l3.6247j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=Restylane@+cost&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS816US816&oq=Restylane@+cost&aqs=chrome..69i57j35i39l2j0i67j0i433j69i60l3.6247j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

[\[vii\]](#) <https://www.clarionmedical.com/en-CA/aesthetics/technology/teosyal-dermal-fillers>

[\[viii\]](#) <https://www.realself.com/question/how-long-does-teosyal-usually-last>

[\[ix\]](#) <https://www.spamedica.com/non-surgical-procedures/injectables/teosyal/#:~:text=Teosyal%20FAQ-,How%20Much%20Does%20a%20Teosyal%20Cost%3F,deals%20or%20promotions%20on%20offer.>

[\[x\]](#) <https://essentialaesthetics.net/blog/what-is-the-best-dermal-filler/>

[\[xi\]](#) <https://www.premierdermatologypartners.com/blog/what-you-should-know-about-popular-dermal-fillers>

[xii]

<https://www.americanboardcosmeticsurgery.org/procedure-learning-center/non-surgical/injectable-fillers-guide/>