

Fuller Lips

give a more youthful look



Gail Humble, M.D.

Nothing is so evident in today's fashion as the appeal of full lips. We see it in the appeal of Julia Roberts, Angeline Jolene, and Liv Tyler. While each woman has her own definition of beauty and her own individualized style, today many women want fuller lips with a more defined outline. The fashion of lips changes as do the fashion of hair. In the fifties a thin scarlet mouth was in style but this gave way to the pale pouty mouth of the sixties. In the seventies no one took notice of the mouth because eyebrows were the notable accent point of the face. By the eighties, the mouth was back and natural. The nineties marked a time where "big was better." The demand in the millennium has been "sensual and alluring lips" that are full and well proportioned.

There is a desirable anatomic shape to the pleasing mouth no matter what the present fashion. Fullness is desirable because it gives a more youthful look. However, facial proportions must be taken into consideration so as to avoid the comical mouth as seen in the movie, "The First Wives Club." The upper lip is generally 1/2 to 2/3 the size of the lower lip. While some fullness at the sides of the upper lip is desirable, most attention should be drawn to the cupid's bow, which

should be full and softly rounded. The lower lip should have slight pillows on the lateral sides with a cleft in the middle. When we augment patients' lips, we work with the natural anatomy of their lips and face. We augment their natural shape rather than dramatically change it. There is a strategic artistry involved in developing the natural assets of ones lips.

There are many soft tissue augmentors available today and many more to come in the next year. Most people are familiar with some of the standard fillers such as Collagen, which is Bovine in origin. The one negative is that it requires a skin test four weeks prior to the initial treatment. This allows the doctor to determine any type of allergic reaction. Otherwise, the safety of this product is well documented and it is quite affordable. The results in lip augmentation unfortunately often last only 2 to 3 months. Newer on the market is Dermologen. Billed as the natural Collagen alternative it does have the advantage of requiring no skin test prior to treatment. Other than the origin of the Dermologen being cadaveric, the duration and properties of it are similar to Collagen. The price is slightly more.

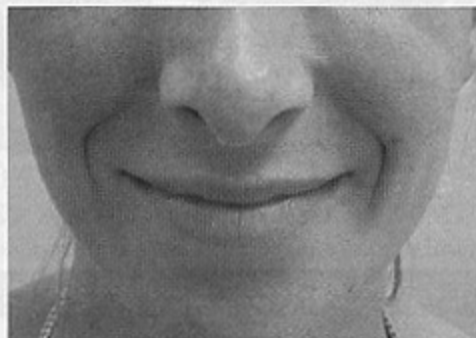
One of the newer "fillers" on the

market is Fascian. This product is unique in having a larger particle size available. The injectable graft is usually invaded by the recipients own fibroblast cells and collagen to produce a layer of scar tissue that may appear and function in a fashion similar to the original fascia. The resultant material may remain in the area indefinitely. The cost is less, but more than one treatment is necessary for a semi-permanent result.

Cymetra was released in June 2000. It is a micronized Alloderm Tissue. Alloderm was originally available only in sheets that were surgically placed in the lips. Cymetra is reported to act as a tissue matrix. The theory behind its functionality is similar to Fascian. Once implanted by a needle into the treatment area, Cymetra repopulates with the host's own cells by reconstructing the host's skin to its original or augmented condition. Cymetra requires no skin test and has approximately a 50% retention of results at six months.

There are several newer products that promise results even longer than this. Reviderm is a Hyaluronic Acid mixed with Dextran beads. This is a 100% natural substance requiring no

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BEFORE



AFTER

Lips

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prior skin test. Hyaluronic Acid comes from certain mushrooms, as well as from rooster combs. Reviderm should last one to two years after two injections. This has just become available through a United States company.

Still, more "fillers" will be available in the next month to 12 months. Polylactic Acid may be available later this month and will be launched under the name of NuFill. Artecoll, which is methyl-methacrylate microspheres mixed with Collagen, and Restylane which is another Hyaluronic gel, are presently available in Europe and South America as well as undergoing clinical trials in the United States. The hope is that these new products may last longer than previous products available.

There are surgical implants such as Soft Form or Alloderm Grafts and Dermal Grafts that can be performed using the patient's own tissue. In addition, fat transfers have been used successfully.

The most important thing is finding a physician that has thorough knowledge about what is available and how to work with it. There is an art to giving someone back their old lips or just improving the lips they have. It takes time and interest on the physician's part as well as the staff. The results should be very reward-

ing for both the patient and the physician.

Dr Gail Humble is Board Certified, Medical director of Blue Pacific Aesthetic Medical Group and is a member of the American College of Phlebology, American Society of Laser

Medicine and Surgery and North American Academy of Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Gail Humble, M.D. & Doug Mest, M.D.
1301 Manhattan Ave., Suite 201
Hermosa Beach
310-374-0347

Kissable Lips



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aesthetic medical group

Gail Humble, M.D. & Doug Mest, M.D.
1301 Manhattan Avenue, Suite 201, Hermosa Beach
310-374-0347 • www.BPacific.com