

Reviderm Intra: excessive swelling, or nice, long-lasting results? Mixed Reviews

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Hermosa Beach, Calif. - Though not yet FDA-approved for use in the United States, Reviderm Intra is a hyaluronic gel filler with a shelf life that already may have passed, according to Gail Humble, M.D., medical director of Blue Pacific Aesthetic Medical Group in Hermosa Beach, Calif.

In Dr. Humble's practice, patients treated with Reviderm Intra experienced marked swelling - particularly with treatment of the lips - that lasted two to five days.

"[Reviderm Intra] causes the most foreign body reaction of all of the fillers,' she said. In a clinical study presented at the September 2001 meeting of the Association of Plastic Surgery in Frankfurt, it was found that Reviderm Intra produced the highest granulation of all injectable fillers.

Sheetal Sapra, M.D., a dermatologist at the Institute of Cosmetic and Laser Surgery in Ontario, reported similar findings. "The swelling afterward is incredible, especially when used in the lips," he said. "Even though the product information said edema can persist for two to five days, patients can't walk around like that".

Reviderm Intra comprises a hydrogel of dextran microbeads suspended in a 2.5-percent base of supercoiled, stabilized hyaluronic gel. Canadian distributor Canderm Pharma says the dextran beads stimulate a cellular reaction in which epithelium tissue and collagen fibers are formed. Unlike the polymethylmethacrylate microbeads used in the permanent fiber Artecoll, however, the dextran beads are comprised of a biodegradable glucose

biopolymer.

The dextran beads are credited with making Reviderm Intra one of the longest-lasting temporary fillers. A clinical study of 138 patients showed that 82.1 percent of patients reported very good or good results after one year. The hyaluronic gel in Reviderm Intra is produced by bacterial fermentation, while biocompatibility studies show no antigenicity associated with the dextran microbeads. According to Canderm Pharma, the same clinical study revealed there were no inflammatory reactions and no migration of the microbeads into surrounding tissues.

Although they rarely use Reviderm Intra anymore, Drs. Humble and Sapra both claim good results using Reviderm Intra to treat the nasolabial folds, glabellar frowns and perioral lines. "We've had some patients treated in the nasolabial folds who were quite happy for a year,' Dr. Humble said. "In the lips, we found that the swelling demanded some planned recovery time for the patients and that the results didn't last as long."

Not all physicians have found excessive swelling to be a problem, however. Allan Behm, M.D., section head, department of dermatology, University of Calgary, as well as a private practitioner, said he has not found Reviderm Intra to cause any more swelling than other fillers derived from hyaluronic gel.

"In general, you may see marked swelling in the first 24 to 48 hours with any hyaluronic gel filler" Dr. Behm said. "[Reviderm Intra] lasts longer than

other hyaluronic acid derivatives such as Restylane and Perlane and patients have good reactions to it." He recommends Reviderm Intra to patients who want long-lasting but not necessarily permanent wrinkle correction.

"We tell people to expect a 20- to 40-percent improvement and we find that they're generally happy with the results, particularly in the nasolabial lines" he said. "We've also had good results using Reviderm Intra to correct lines on the forehead."

All three physicians claim the best results from an initial treatment comprising one injection of Reviderm Intra, followed by a second injection after approximately four weeks. Because most patients find the injections very painful, Dr. Humble, recommends administering a nerve block prior to treatment.

By the same token, she questions whether Reviderm Intra will ever gain entry into the u.s. market. She rarely uses the filler anymore in her practice and said other, temporary fillers that some consider more promising are in line for FDA approval. "Restylane and Perlane are before the FDA now and New-Fill may come for review as early as this fall" she said.

"I find that Restylane works well" said Dr. Sapra. "It flows well and the needle and syringe are well-designed."

None of the three dermatologists interviewed is financially linked to Canderm Pharma or Reviderm Intra.