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Can Juvederm® or Restylane® reverse skin aging by stimulating your own collagen production?

A recent study published in the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology* in March 2013 demonstrates that cross-linked hyaluronic acid filler injections result in more than just wrinkle correction from introducing a filler substance into the skin. In fact, **hyaluronic acid fillers have been shown to stimulate skin's own collagen production by activating fibroblasts, the cells that produce collagen.**

With aging, fibroblasts shrink and their collagen production is diminished. Hyaluronic acid fillers can stimulate fibroblast function and thus lead to increased collagen deposition around the filler. In practical terms, this results in progressively less need for the filler in the long run in patients that undergo several treatments over the years.

What is hyaluronic acid?

Hyaluronic acid is a natural complex sugar molecule found throughout all living animals that absorbs water adding volume to the skin. In addition, hyaluronic acid binds with collagen and elastin and transports essential nutrients to cells within the skin. It is the combination of collagen and elastic fibers with hyaluronic acid that together provide the structure, elasticity, and volume to the skin resulting in youthful appearance. Hyaluronic acid in Juvederm® and Restylane® is cross-linked (bound together) in order to increase its longevity in the skin.

Which are the most popular hyaluronic acid fillers?

Juvederm® XC is the only hyaluronic acid filler FDA approved to **last up to one year with just one treatment.** Its unique manufacturing process creates a smooth gel that flows easily into the skin for a natural look and feel. Approved by the FDA in June 2006, Juvederm® is currently the **#1 selling dermal filler in the U.S.** Other hyaluronic acid fillers have less smooth, "granular" consistency.

Restylane® remains a popular option for many injectors. It has been available in Europe since 1996 and in the U.S. since 2003. Perlane® is the thickest of the hyaluronic acid fillers and it is best suited for deep skin folds and wrinkles.

For more information on these and other wrinkle fillers, please call our office at 301.656.7546 and schedule a cosmetic consultation with Dr. Margaret Sommerville.

