Why Perfectha is my preferred dermal filler for facial rejuvenation

When choosing a dermal filler for her aesthetic patients, Kathryn Taylor Barnes prioritises safety, efficacy and patient satisfaction. Since incorporating Perfectha into her aesthetics toolbox for the correction of facial lines and wrinkles, her patients have been very satisfied with the results. In this product review, she explains why Perfectha is her favourite range of dermal fillers.

As people age, their skin shows signs of shrinkage and laxity. Whereas shrinkage occurs due to loss of volume from fat compartments (particularly noticeable in the face), laxity occurs as a result of reduced collagen and elastin structural support, causing global skin sagging on the face and body. Both of these changes often lead to an unattractive, tired look that makes people want to appear more youthful and rested. This can result in reduced self-confidence, low self-esteem, reduced opportunities in the workplace and/or in relationships, and psychological difficulties (e.g. depression).

Dermal fillers are vital products for the aesthetic practitioner’s ‘toolbox’ to help restore skin structure and replace elements that are being drained away with the ageing process. As an aesthetic practitioner, I routinely use a volumising dermal filler in conjunction with neurotoxin to create a smoother skin canvas and restore volume balance, to help the patient look more rested with improved outward vitality. Hyaluronic acid (HA) dermal fillers are used in many of my patients with very successful outcomes; they promote hydration and give the skin a ‘drink from the inside’. They are safe, generally well-tolerated, suit a wide range of skin types and are cost-effective, as the products available have a good longevity in situ.

When choosing which product to inject, aesthetic practitioners are spoilt for choice. Personally, I always keep my eyes open to new fillers that become available and pay attention to how they show improvements compared with others. Safety and efficacy of products is so important as practitioners want to deliver the best and most effective treatments for their patients. Practitioners also want to minimise side effects, such as pain, swelling, infection and lumps, as well as deliver a treatment that lasts a reasonable amount of time so that the patient feels that they have spent their pennies wisely.

Introducing Perfectha

I was introduced to the Perfectha range of dermal fillers in June 2014 when I attended the FACE conference. Having already used and become very familiar with Ellansé and Sculptra, it seemed an obvious choice to try the new dermal filler offering from Sinclair Pharma’s portfolio. After all, I trust and respect the company and have high regard for both Ellansé and Sculptra.

On the surface, Perfectha may seem like ‘just another one of those HA fillers’. However, when looking at it more closely, Perfectha comes in all shapes and sizes to perfectly suit each area of the face that I would consider treating. I like the packaging and the easy way in which each product glides out of the needle with gentle pressure on the syringe. This means my hands are not feeling clumsy and I can concentrate more on following the facial lines I am chasing with my needle, or the hollows I am trying to fill and revolumise.

Perfectha is also a safe range of fillers, which is particularly important to me. I am reassured by the fact that, since 2007, over 2.5 million syringes have been sold worldwide and have a very low risk of side effects. The word has spread about these dermal fillers in the press and endorsement by celebrities, including Michelle Heaton as the new face of the brand, allows for my clients to feel at ease when they realise that someone whom they identify with has been very happy with their injection experience. In fact, I am now seeing patients who ask for Perfectha by name; this is impressive for a dermal filler range that is still considered a youngster in the UK market.

Mechanism of action

Perfectha’s cross-linked (E-Brid) technology is unique as its gel is composed of a highly covalent bonded elastic gel combined with a small amount of non-cross-linked HA. This mixture allows for a streamlined injection, as well as an impressive volumising and lifting capacity where the filler is placed. The
non-cross-linked HA aids in ensuring the product integrate within the target treatment zone and helps Perfectha flow more smoothly out of the needle when injected. This leads to greater patient comfort.

The safe aspect of using a HA filler such as Perfectha is that it slowly degrades into inert substances not harmful to the body, and can be dissolved with hyaluronidase injections if any post treatment adjustment is needed if symmetry is not matching.

Injection depth
The Perfectha range allows for aesthetic practitioners to have a choice in the depth level where to place the product within the skin. Perfectha Fine Lines and Complement are great at smoothing out more superficial lines, especially those on the lower cheeks and upper lip areas. Perfectha Derm is very versatile in terms of where it can be used (e.g. lips, under the eyes). Perfectha Deep is my personal favourite as I feel its works really well in the lips and nasolabial areas, marionette lines and even cheeks. Perfectha Subskin is useful for deep injections and large volume replacement, as well as recontouring of the bone from age-related resorption or fat compartment shrinkage. The handy 1 ml syringes are a personal favourite of mine when doing deep cheek augmentation.

High-quality outcomes
Following treatment with Perfectha, I quickly realised that my patients were delighted with the results. As the products are associated with minimal swelling, there is a shorter period of downtime. The products also create natural-looking results where the client’s face moves in an ‘undone way’ instead of appearing ‘stiff’.

By using a biphasic HA filler, I also feel the results are more predictable than a monophasic filler and there is less risk of over-correction than with monophasic fillers. When Park et al (2014) compared two mainstream biphasic HA dermal fillers (one of which was Perfectha) with a monophasic HA, the results showed the biphasic HA fillers had less risk of swelling than the monophasic dermal fillers. It is easier for the aesthetic practitioner to gauge when to stop injecting when this degree of real-time correction is achieved.

Lip enhancement
I really like using Perfectha Deep on small, thin lips as it gives a support that exceeds other ranges for this type of lip. Perfectha Fine Lines is effective at plumping up smoker’s lines and restoring lost volume. The key to a natural result is choosing the right product choice, avoiding the over-injection of volume, and massaging and moulding the product into the area with digital pressure after injection. I continually reassess patients from the front and side views when I inject and use up to 0.6 ml of product in the upper lip area; more than this amount can distort ‘normal’ balanced contours.

Non-surgical rhinoplasty
Perfectha Deep and Perfectha Derm are suitable products to restore lost volume to the lip body. Again massage is an important step, as well as ensuring the patient is aware that the lip area will have some swelling for a few days while the product settles down.

The golden ratio and an experienced eye should dictate which volume of product to inject. Aesthetic practitioners should always try and trust their experienced aesthetic eye and avoid being led by the patient who may be after a ‘hyperinflated’ unnatural look. The hydration effect of injecting Perfectha into the lip area produces a natural glow to the skin, which adds tremendously to patient satisfaction with the treatment.
Anaesthetic is not required as the procedure is quick and small volumes injected slowly. Perfectha is injected and then easily moulded to smooth out the nasal deformity. This is where a good aesthetic practitioner’s aesthetic eye is vital, as they are effectively reshaping the nose and a small change makes a big difference to the face.

This relatively straightforward procedure can be carried over a lunchtime without much disruption to the patient’s schedule. Minimal bruising, temporary redness and a few days of soreness are to be expected. The instant psychological lift and confidence boost is easily achieved after this enhancing treatment, as a small change to the nose—a central focal point to the face—makes a big difference to how people look. Personally, I feel the treatment is excellent value for money considering the filler usually last over 18 months and is a simple and quick procedure with limited downtime.

Case studies

Case study one

A 46-year-old non-smoker presented to the clinic with clear sun damage to her skin. Although she had good natural cheek volume, her main concern related to her nasolabial lines. As the patient wanted an instant result with good longevity, I decided to inject 1.5 ml of Perfectha Deep on each side, using a needle. This procedure was done 12 months ago and the patient feels that the product has not shown any signs of shrinkage. She is delighted with the results and has requested Perfectha for her future HA injection treatments. She is also embarking on skin peel treatments to combat the sun damage and compliment the HA treatment.

Case study two

This patient was a 63-year-old non-smoker. She was postmenopausal and had thinner, looser skin related to the ageing process and a lack of hormones. Her volume loss was asymmetrical; it was worse on the right of her mouth and lines occurring at the side of her mouth were making her look tired. For this patient, I used a needle to inject Perfectha Derm (0.6 ml in left side near mouth edge and 0.1 ml in right side) and Deep (0.7 ml in nose to mouth line on right). Although the patient had some bruising on the right side related to frailty of skin, the final outcome was excellent and the patient was very happy with her results. She is now considering having Perfectha Subskin to help recontour her jawline and pre-jowl sulcus area.

Long-lasting results

With Perfectha, I feel confident I can hit my target 100% of the time (or near enough!). After having immersed my clinic with Perfectha, I haven’t looked back and certainly feel that my dermal filler patient results have improved. The long-lasting results are essential when my clients are wanting value for money. Perfectha delivers this and in turn reflects on me well as an aesthetic practitioner. Without a doubt Perfectha has a lot to do with this, but I like to think maybe my injectables experience has something to do with it too!

References