

face



youthful
glow

Cosmetic physician **Dr Herbert Hooi** says injectable volumisers such as Regen PRP and Radiesse can restore volume and rejuvenate an ageing face. Jessica Rule reports.

The ageing face represents a composite of changes in skin, fat, muscle and bone that may vary in extent from person to person. 'In general, our skin becomes thinner with age, accumulates areas of pigmentation and loses the smooth texture of youth,' says Sydney cosmetic physician Dr Herbert Hooi.

'There is a gradual decrease in collagen and elastin, demonstrated by the development of wrinkles and deeper lines. The various fat pads on the face tend to lose volume and droop downwards because of the loss of elastic support, while underlying muscles become thinner and the facial bones lose volume,' he continues.

According to Dr Hooi, volume restoration and facial contouring is key to any rejuvenation procedure. 'These changes all contribute to forehead lines, drooping of the eyebrows, hollowness in the lower eyelids, crow's feet, loss of cheek prominence, increased prominence of the nasolabial folds and the development of jowls,' he says.

Non-invasive options, including fillers such as Radiesse and platelet-rich plasma injections such as Regen PRP can treat such age-related changes and help restore facial harmony, balance and beauty.

Radiesse

Radiesse is a next-generation filler with an advanced calcium-based microsphere technology that restores volume and stimulates the growth of the body's own collagen. It is gently injected into the skin in small amounts, where the tiny particles form a scaffold around which new collagen is produced. This response provides immediate, visible improvement of folds and wrinkles and restores a fuller, more youthful appearance.

'Radiesse can address most age-related changes resulting from loss of volume or skin elasticity,' says Dr Hooi. 'It is well suited for cheek augmentation to restore the prominence of the cheeks and for the treatment of wrinkles and larger folds such as the nasolabial folds and marionette lines running down from the corners of the mouth. It is also suitable for smaller areas such as the lateral brow, non-surgical rhinoplasty and chin augmentation.'

The non-permanent treatment provides an aesthetic correction that has been shown to last one year or longer.

Dr Hooi says the ideal candidates for Radiesse are male or female patients who are otherwise healthy and have realistic expectations. 'Given part of the effect of Radiesse is



to stimulate new collagen growth, the best results are seen in patients who have the optimum foundation for building new collagen – non-smokers who have healthy diets and well-nourished skin,' he says.

Dr Hooi says he is impressed with the results he is seeing from treatment with Radiesse. 'The product feels soft and natural in the skin once it has settled in,' says Dr Hooi. 'My patients have generally been very happy with Radiesse and particularly like the longevity that it can deliver.'

Regen PRP

Regen PRP (Platelet Rich Plasma) injections target the healing factors found in platelets. A sample of blood is taken from the patient and concentrated by spinning it in a centrifuge, separating the cells in the blood into red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. The platelets are then selectively withdrawn and administered to the area to be treated.

The separated plasma can be used for several cosmetic indications, including wrinkle and folds, augmentations for the face, neck, décolletage and hands, as well as lip enhancement. Regen PRP works by stimulating the body's

own collagen production and therefore works best on areas where the skin has become thinner and is contributing towards a more tired or aged look.

'Typical areas include the fine skin around the eyes, the neck and décolletage and the backs of the hands, but it can be used just about anywhere to increase firmness, such as the cheeks and jaw line,' says Dr Hooi.

'The treatment relies on stimulating each individual patient's production of collagen so naturally there is some variability in the response – but then the same can be said for many other treatments,' he continues. 'In addition, because Regen PRP is a technique that uses one's own cells, there are no issues with allergies or other reactions.'

Dr Hooi says he has found results with Regen PRP injections pleasantly surprising. 'Patients have commented that they like the fact that treatment involves their own cells and it can be performed in the one visit, as well as the noticeable softening of the wrinkles and the increase in firmness of their skin,' he says.

'I believe that we have not seen the full potential of Regen PRP as yet, and that is why I believe it is such an exciting development.' **acsm**