



SKIN & BEAUTY CENTER
Cosmetic, Medical and Surgical Dermatology

DermlA.com

BURBANK

191 S. Buena Vista St. Suite 475
Burbank, CA 91505
T: (818) 842-8000
F: (818) 842-3208

SANTA CLARITA

27879 Smyth Drive
Valencia, CA 91355
T: (877) 822-2223
F: (323) 935-8804



NORTHRIDGE

9535 Reseda Blvd. Suite 304
Northridge, CA 91324
T: (818) 886-3884
F: (818) 886-5418

William Coleman, MD
David Friedman, MD
Ava Khosraviani, MD
Payam Saadat, MD
Manjunath Vadmal, MD
Kristen Ochsner, PA-C
Jenna Trubschenck, M.S. PA-C

Sculptra

What is Sculptra?

Sculptra® is an enduring and safe treatment approved by the FDA for restoration and/or correction of the signs of facial fat loss, or lipoatrophy, in people with human immunodeficiency virus. Facial fat loss is the loss of fat beneath the skin, which can result in sunken cheeks, indentations, and hollow eyes. It is the first FDA-approved product of its kind for this condition. Proper use of Sculptra produces a more youthful, pleasing facial contour in people with facial ageing, wrinkling and loss of facial fat. Skin creases, wrinkles, depressions, and folds can all be treated and improved with Sculptra.

What is Sculptra made of?

Sculptra is made from poly-L-lactic acid, which is a well-known material that has been used in medical products for more than 20 years. Poly-L-acid has been safely used in orthopedics since the mid-nineties and has been used in Europe since 1999 for cosmetic correction of scars and wrinkles under the trade name New-Fill. It is commonly used as a component of dissolvable sutures, soft tissue implants, and other types of surgical implants. Sculptra is biodegradable (meaning that it is gradually broken down and eventually completely eliminated from the body) and biocompatible (a material that does not harm the body).

What areas can be treated with Sculptra?

Sculptra achieves excellent results in treating all parts of the face including the areas around the eyes and lips, between the mouth and nose, cheeks and neck, temple area, eyebrow area, and the side of your face. It can even be used to widen the angle of your jaw for a more sculpted face. It adds volume to the cheeks, to folds around the chin, and to hollow areas around the eyes. Sculptra can also be used in the back of hands for aging, the upper chest for deep lines and areas of depressions that may occur after liposuction.

How does it work?

Sculptra™ is used for restoring volume and improving facial contours. Sculptra works differently from other injectable products such as botox, collagen and restylane injections. With Sculptra, tiny particles of PLA are diluted in a suspension of sterile water, carefully implanted in the skin, and then molded for optimal results. Sculptra is injected below the surface of the skin into the areas that are undergoing treatment or the area of fat loss. The particles of PLA stimulate the formation of new collagen in the skin, adding volume over time and a gradual increase in skin thickness. After the area is injected it may look great, and then the volume will go down by the next morning. Over the next few weeks, Sculptra stimulates the production of your own new collagen. It causes the body to stimulate its own collagen. It is this new collagen that ultimately produces the improvement in the appearance of the skin that results from Sculptra. Visible results appear within the first few treatment sessions.



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How many treatments are required?

Your physician will see you again in a few weeks to evaluate the results. Some patients may require a touch up injection. Generally, two or three treatment sessions every four to six weeks are required to obtain the optimal results. Your physician will decide the appropriate number of treatment sessions and the amount of Sculptra™ you will need at each session. Patients with severe facial fat loss may require 3 to 6 treatment sessions.

How long do the treatments last?

The effects of Sculptra™ are enduring. In a clinical study, effects lasted for up to 2 years after the first treatment session in most patients. Do I need a skin test before being treated with Sculptra™? No skin testing is required prior to the injection.

Do injections of Sculptra™ hurt?

As with any injection, injections with Sculptra™ may hurt. However, Sculptra™ is injected in small amounts using a very fine needle. Your physician may apply a topical or local anesthetic.

What can I expect after treatment?

Following your initial visit, it may appear that Sculptra worked immediately, because some swelling will occur from the injections. The swelling goes down and the water is absorbed by your body. Sculptra takes time to gradually correct the depression in your skin. Immediately following a treatment session with Sculptra™, some redness, swelling, pain, bruising or all of these signs can happen in the treatment area. These signs usually go away in a few hours to a few days. Your physician will give you specific posttreatment care instructions. There is no downtime with Sculptra. Most patients feel comfortable going back to their normal activities following treatment. After a Sculptra treatment, most patients can resume their normal activities immediately after leaving the office. Make-up may be applied a few hours after the treatment.

What are the possible side effects of treatment with Sculptra™?

The most common side effects with the use of Sculptra™ include injection-related side effects at the site of the injection such as bleeding, tenderness or pain, redness, bruising, or swelling. These side effects generally last, on average, 3 to 17 days. Be clear with your physician about your medical history and your expectations. Sculptra should not be injected while you have an active skin infection or inflammation in the treatment area, or if you are allergic to any of the ingredients in the solution.

What other procedures can Sculptra be combined with?

Sculptra treatments may also be combined with other facial rejuvenation procedures to further enhance the result. Sculptra can be used with Botox cosmetic injections, temporary injectable fillers such as Restylane, FotoFacial® and FotoLift™, and Threadlifts. This comprehensive non-surgical facial rejuvenation program may replace surgery for some people.