

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

COLLAGEN STIMULATOR (POLY-L-LACTIC ACID)

This collagen stimulator is made of poly-L-lactic acid. It is a biocompatible (does not harm the body), biodegradable (metabolised by the body), synthetic polymer (polymers make up many of the materials in living organisms) from the alpha-hydroxy-acid family (fruit acids). Poly-L-lactic acid has been used medically for many years in dissolvable stitches and does not require pre-treatment skin testing for allergies.

When injected into the skin and deeper tissues, the poly-L-lactic acid stimulates a natural increase in collagen levels which can restore structure and volume, as well as help to improve more superficial effects of ageing, such as reduced skin elasticity and crepiness. Collagen stimulator does not treat or cure any underlying disease or cause of tissue or fat loss; rather it is designed to improve the appearance of the affected area(s).

The production of collagen can take 8 - 12 weeks and as such, results with this product take time to become visible. It is recommended that treatment is administered a minimum of 2 times, with an 8 week interval. The resultant collagen production is likely to last several years, however results can vary for each person and for some individuals' further treatments may be required to achieve their desired result. It is expected that patients will maintain the effect with annual treatment.

Allergic reactions to poly-L-lactic acid are incredibly rare however side effects from the treatment are possible. These may include bruising, itching, pain, redness or swelling in the treatment area. These reactions usually resolve within a few days to 1 week. The treatment is administered in a solution containing water, which will cause localised swelling that will be noticeable for at least several hours and perhaps as long as several days.

For the first 5 days patients are required to firmly massage the treated area for 5 minutes, 5 times a day using a moisturising cream. This helps to keep the poly-L-lactic acid dispersed and reduce the likelihood of the molecules clumping and causing bumps under the skin.

In some cases, despite diligent massage, nodules (small bumps under the skin) may occur. These are rare but can occur within a few weeks or several months to over a year following treatment. They can persist for a prolonged time and usually do not require treatment, often disappearing spontaneously. In some instances, they may become inflamed causing redness, swelling and discomfort. Management may include use of antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and steroid medication or even surgical excision if they are visible or persistent and problematic.

More serious adverse events have been reported, however are much less common. These include granulomas (inflammation of tissue forming a lump), infection or abscess, induration (thickened area of tissue), numbness and facial nerve paralysis, haematoma, skin discolouration, scarring, skin atrophy (reduction in skin tissue) or skin hypertrophy (increase in skin tissue). There have been isolated occurrences of impaired circulation resulting in ischaemia/necrosis or blindness.

Injectable anaesthetic is used during the treatment for comfort and as a result, minimal pain is experienced. The anaesthetic is similar to the numbing agents used by dentists. The numbness caused may result in diminished sensation to pain and temperature in the treated area for approximately two hours post treatment.

These treatments must not be administered to patients who are pregnant or breastfeeding, or if there is a known allergy to poly-L-lactic acid or anaesthetic.