

Easy Reader

SOUTH BAY'S WEEKLY

HEALTHY *Advice*

Time for a Radiance smile?

by **Gail Humble M.D. and Douglas Mest M.D.**

For those of you who wish to have a quick fix for facial lines or lip augmentation, there is a new product available. The problem to date hasn't been that these quick fixes don't work; rather that they dissipate too quickly, with the promised results lasting only months. Preliminary data on a calcium hydroxylapatite injectable implant known as "Radiance" has proved to be safe and effective for those patients interested in filling facial lines and considering lip augmentation. Radiance offers advantages over the injectable products presently being offered such as Collagen, Fascian, or Hyaluronic Acid in that it has a duration of approximately three years and still involves no down time.

Radiance Bioform, Franksville, Wis. is pending FDA approval for lip augmentation. Radiance is already FDA approved for vocal chord injection and as a tissue marker. The use in cosmetics in this case is considered "off label" much in the same way the use of Botox was until its FDA approval for glabellar frown lines last year.

Radiance is a biocompatible product which consists of calcium hydroxylapatite microspheres in a carboxymethylcellulose gel carrier. It is a long lasting injectable that does not require prior skin testing. In other areas of the human body, studies have shown the implant has stayed soft and lasts up to three years.

Radiance offers several advantages to our patients. First, it is used in a one to one correction. This works well because no period of over correction is necessary; results are as they stand when the patient leaves the office. If more correction is desired it can always be added later.

The most important aspect of Radiance's benefit is its lasting effects. As discussed in previous articles, the perfect filler would last two years, which is enough time to enjoy the benefits and yet not be fixed into the results. While there will probably always be a place for Collagen or some of the shorter acting Hyaluronic acid products, for patients who want something more permanent, Radiance may be the answer as it offers the advantages of augmentation without the need of surgery.

The minimum downtime for Radiance also makes it extremely attractive to patients. The procedure can be done as an outpatient procedure with a simple nerve block or topical anesthetic for anesthesia. It takes no more than 15 minutes to complete and the patient can look good within 24 to 36 hours. As with all injectables, results depend heavily on the expertise of the injector. This product offers good promise and should be considered as a very viable alternative to the other options available.

As a note, Gail Humble, M.D., and Douglas Mest, M.D., specialize in non surgical cosmetic procedures and are presently conducting a study for the FDA on New Fill Polylactic acid . ER