Want your pre-lipo face back? You have options—though few are approved, none are perfect and all cost plenty. Still interested? Thought so.

Tim Murphy fills you in

"Zyplast": A Brand Moo You

What is it? Bovine collagen-protein harvested from cowhide.

How does it work? If tests show you're not allergic to the product, it can be injected into your cheek—a 15-minute procedure.

Happy face: There's very little swelling—you can go out that same day.
night. And it's temporary-sans regrets.

**Sad face:** You will need it again every three months to two years depending on how severe your lipoatrophy is.

**FDA approved?** Yes.

**Cost:** $600-$2,000 per session.

"**Fascian**" and "**Cymetra**": Dead Man Caulking

**What are they?** Gristle or skin from human cadavers mixed with collagen and elastin proteins. Appetizing, eh?

**How do they work?** Like collagen injections.

**Happy face:** They're alternatives for people allergic to collagen. Allergic reactions are rare. You can show your face soon after. And they're temporary—no regret factor.

**Sad face:** Unlike collagen, they cause pain and swelling; like collagen, they're temporary, from three months to two years.

**FDA approved?** Yes.

**Cost:** Fascian's about the same as collagen, Cymetra's three times as much.

"**SILIKON 1000**" Droplets are Forever

**What is it?** A purer formulation of silicone, a nonbiodegradable industrial lubricant, controversial ever since it began beefing up boobs in the '60s.

**How does it work?** Over six to 10 visits, microdroplets are injected into the cheeks, stimulating the growth of natural collagen.

**Happy face:** Nonallergenic and generally sterile. Can give very smooth, pleasing results. San Francisco HIVer Joe Hall, 41, swears by Silikon 1000 (ask him about it at joe.hall@sen.ca.gov).

**Sad face:** It's permanent, and may cause discoloration at injection site, inflammation, unsightly bumps as big as marbles called granulomas, even small tumors. Or the silicone can "migrate" from the cheeks, settling in the jowls or the liver.

**FDA approved?** Not for facial use, but by law, if a product's approved for one thing docs can use it however they want. Trials are underway for the facial use of SilSkin (for more info, visit www.richard-james.com).

**Cost?** About $700 per visit.

"**New-Fill**": Cause Celebre

**What is it?** Polyactic acid, a synthetic sugar.

**How does it work?** Powdery New-Fill is mixed with a solution and then, after local anesthesia, injected into the skin in microdroplets, where it stimulates collagen growth. Requires four or five visits a month apart.

**Happy face:** In several small European studies, New-Fill got good marks for giving HIVers a smoother, fuller face.

**Sad face:** Jury's out on whether it's permanent.

**FDA approved?** No. The FDA stopped letting the buyers' club DAAIR (www.daair.org) distribute New-Fill in 2001, but some docs said they had heard that DAAIR was still selling it. (DAAIR didn't return calls from POZ). Otherwise, you have to bring it back from Europe (visit www.newfill.com for distributor contacts) or Mexico City. It will also be available to a few HIVers via a handful of MDs, including Gervais Frechette in New York and Douglas Mest in LA, who are arranging studies with the FDA and Dermik (www.dermik.com). New-Fill's would-be U.S. distributor, to submit data toward FDA approval.

**Cost:** About $750 per visit ($250 per kit plus treatment).

"**Bio-Alcamid**": The Love Cult

**What is it?** It's a gel of 97 percent water and 3 percent synthetic polymer (click on www.polymekon.it).

**How does it work?** After it is facially injected (30 to 90 minutes, two to three visits), a cell membrane forms to keep it in place.

**Happy face:** A dozen HIVers e-raved about getting their faces back at Clinic' estetica in Tijuana, Mexico (www.clinicestetica.com), under the care of charismatic non-MD Anna Love.

One HIVer's success story is featured at www.houstonbuyersclub.com. And Bio-Alcamid's fans claim it's nonallergenic, doesn't migrate like silicone and can be removed with a simple syringe.

**Sad face:** Despite HIVers' praises, POZ found no U.S. doc who either works with or vouches for it.

**FDA approved?** No way, Jose.

**Cost:** $3,000-$4,500 (plus the trip to Tijuana, of course).

For more plans for face-saving methods— from fat harvesting to soft-foam implants, approved or not-click on the POZ website at www.poz.com/lipo.