



Injection of quality

In this month's dossier we take a look at the best injectable treatments for improving skin quality

Injectable treatments are the bread and butter of most aesthetic clinics but in today's market there is an increasing focus on injectables for improving skin quality as well as those that fill and volumise. In this month's Dossier we will be looking at the leading injectable brands on the market that fit into the categories of "tissue stimulators", "skinboosters", "bio-rejuvenators" and "bio-revitalisers".

ELLANSÉ - SINCLAIR PHARMA

"The holy grail of facial rejuvenation would be the ability of a skin injectable to stimulate controlled, lasting collagen production", says consultant dermatologist Dr Nick Lowe.

Ellansé from the Sinclair Pharma portfolio does just that. Providing both instant and gradual results, patients who have been treated with Ellansé will have the benefits of increased

volume immediately post-injection, however this initial volumisation continues to develop for up to four months, as ingredients within the filler encourage the body to produce Type 1 collagen in response. This is the body's most flexible collagen which allows full facial movement, and as a consequence brings about nuanced, flexible and natural-looking results, which are then tuneable for one to four years.

Because the product is not just volumising but stimulating too, patients will see an improvement in overall skin quality as a result of the freshly generated collagen.

The collagen stimulation is brought about by a bio-absorbable medical polymer called polycaprolactone. When micro-spheres made from this polymer that are suspended in the filler gel are absorbed by the body, this triggers a reaction which results in the body generating its own repair collagen.

Dr Lowe referenced studies conducted by Dr Pierre Nicolau which confirmed that new collagen type 1 endures 20 months after injection with Ellansé. However more recent studies show that results can last up to four years, depending on which of four different editions of the product is used.

As well as the natural-looking results the filler achieves and its sustained duration, Ellansé is particularly appropriate for those where sustained correction with hyaluronic acid fillers has been disappointing or short lived.

In addition, as it is a skin injectable which stimulates controlled, lasting collagen production, Ellansé is a more acceptable treatment for men, for whom an 'obvious' result is not desirable, and it can also help ameliorate facial scars and deep acne pits which can have a strong psycho-social impact.

PROPHILO - HA DERMA

Profilo has definitely hit the UK market by storm since it launched in 2016.

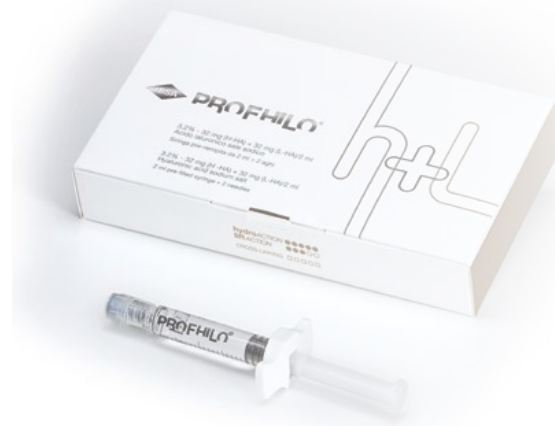
Manufactured by IBSA and distributed in the UK by HA Derma, Profilo is a BDDE-free, thermally-linked product and it provides a slow and long-lasting release of both high and low molecular weight HA. Although it is based on hyaluronic acid technology, Profilo is described as a "bio-remodelling product" rather than a filler.

The product utilises IBSA's proprietary HydroLift® Action and is used to remodel and stimulate rather than to create immediate volumisation or augmentation. It contains both high (HMW) and low molecular weight (LMW) HA which generates a dual action, incorporating hydration and tissue stimulation.

"It's important to understand that Profilo is not a volumising dermal filler. It is also not mesotherapy. It sits between skinboosters and fillers as a super skin booster in that it offers fantastic hydration but also triggers collagen and elastin production, resulting in bio-remodelling of the skin", said Dr Ravi Jain from the Riverbanks Clinic in Harpenden.

Profilo also involves fewer injection points, making treatments fast. Treatments are also very comfortable as the unique characteristics of the product mean that there is no need for a local anaesthetic ingredient, such as lidocaine, as there is no resistance within the tissue when it is injected.

Dr Fab Equizi from Lip Doctor Aesthetics in Liverpool has been impressed by Profilo. He says, "I've never really been impressed with skinboosters. There's always been the argument that the results are largely due to the fact that



you are sticking a needle in the skin many times, rather than what you are injecting. When I first read about Profilo what impressed me were the numbers. Most skinboosters have 10-20mg/ml of HA but Profilo has a whopping 64mg/ml, so if we are talking about hyaluronic acid for skin hydration, just the numbers alone mean the product is going to suck a lot of water into the skin.

"It's much cleverer than that too. It's not just about hydration, it's about inter-cellular signalling so, unlike other skin boosters you get genuine skin remodelling. And, of course, it's only five injection points in the face so you can't throw in the old microneedling argument."

On top of this the product claims to have reduced adverse effects and limited side effects typically associated with HA injections, and the results are long lasting and sustained. It also requires fewer top-up sessions than other biostimulators. The treatment is intended to be performed across two separate sessions, spaced one month apart. A further treatment can be performed two months after the second session, if required.

This treatment cycle can then be repeated twice per year for optimum results.

Aesthetic nurse Wendy Preston was an early adopter of Profilo and it has proved to be a very popular treatment with her patients. She says, "I love the natural results and the ease of the treatment, and my patients have been loving the results too. I'm also seeing good results in the arms. Often you need two syringes in each arm, which can work out quite expensive, so it depends on the patient's budget, however, if you are going to a wedding or on holiday and are worried about the arm area its perfect. I have switched a lot of my clients who were on Sculptra onto Profilo and I have completely stopped using skin boosters.">

"Unlike other skin boosters you get genuine skin remodelling"
Dr Fab Equizi



Before and after Profilo, courtesy of Wendy Preston



Before and after Profilo, courtesy of Dr Fab Equizi