

What Are Dermal Fillers and What Can They Treat?

Dermal fillers are injectable treatments used to restore lost volume, soften facial lines and folds, and enhance certain areas of the face. Most fillers used today contain hyaluronic acid (HA), a substance that naturally occurs in the body and helps add volume when injected beneath the skin. At Calvert Dermatology, we use dermal fillers as part of a personalized cosmetic treatment plan. Our goal is to address areas of volume loss and facial aging while maintaining balance and a natural appearance.

What Are Dermal Fillers?

As we age, we gradually lose collagen, fat, and volume in different areas of the face. This can contribute to deeper folds, flatter cheeks, thinner lips, or changes in facial contours. Dermal fillers are placed under the skin to restore some of this lost volume. Depending on the product and where it is injected, fillers can soften lines and folds, add volume, or enhance facial contours. Hyaluronic acid fillers also attract water, which contributes to their filling effect.

Fillers are different from Botox and other neuromodulators. Botox temporarily relaxes specific muscles that contribute to expression lines, while fillers add volume beneath the skin. The two treatments address different aspects of facial aging and may sometimes be used together.

What Areas Can Fillers Treat?

At Calvert Dermatology, we offer filler treatments for several areas of the face, including:

- Cheeks and midface – to restore volume and improve facial contours
- Lips and around the mouth – to restore or enhance lip volume and soften certain lines
- Tear troughs – to address certain types of volume loss beneath the eyes
- Jawline and chin – to enhance definition and improve facial balance

Not every patient is a candidate for filler in every area. The anatomy of the treatment area, the type of filler being considered, and your individual goals all need to be taken into account.

What Should I Expect During a Filler Appointment?

Before treatment, your provider will evaluate your face and discuss what you would like to improve. This is an important part of the process because the goal is not simply to add volume. The amount and location of filler should be chosen based on your facial structure and the result you are trying to achieve.

At Calvert Dermatology, filler treatments may be performed gradually or in layers depending on the areas being treated and your goals. We take a conservative, individualized approach rather than treating every face the same way. The injections themselves are usually brief. Some fillers contain lidocaine, a local anesthetic that can help reduce discomfort during treatment.

Will I Have Swelling or Bruising?

Some swelling, bruising, redness, tenderness, or sensitivity at the injection sites is common after filler. These effects are usually temporary and often improve over several days, although some swelling can last longer depending on the treatment area and individual response.

Your provider will give you specific instructions about caring for your skin after treatment.

Are Dermal Fillers Safe?

Dermal fillers have a good safety record when appropriately selected and administered by an experienced medical professional, but they are still a medical procedure and have potential risks. Common side effects include bruising, swelling, redness, pain, tenderness, itching, and rash. Less common complications include infection, nodules, inflammation, and allergic reactions.

A rare but serious complication occurs when filler is accidentally injected into a blood vessel. This can interfere with blood flow and, in severe cases, cause tissue damage, vision problems, or stroke. Although uncommon, this risk is one reason filler injections should be performed by a qualified medical professional who understands facial anatomy and how to manage complications.

Bottom Line

Dermal fillers can restore volume, soften certain facial lines and folds, and enhance facial contours without surgery. The most appropriate filler and treatment area depend on your individual anatomy, skin, and goals.

At Calvert Dermatology, we take the time to evaluate your face and discuss what you would like to improve before recommending treatment. Our approach is individualized, and treatment can be performed gradually to help create a balanced result that fits your features.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will fillers make me look overdone?

Not necessarily. The amount of filler used and where it is placed have a significant effect on the result. At Calvert Dermatology, treatment is tailored to your facial structure and goals, and treatment can be performed gradually when appropriate.

Can fillers be used with Botox?

Yes. Botox and fillers work differently, and they may be used together when appropriate. Your provider can discuss whether combining treatments makes sense for your goals.

Who should not have fillers?

Fillers may not be appropriate for everyone. Your provider should know about allergies, bleeding disorders, active skin inflammation or infection, and other relevant medical conditions before treatment. The FDA also notes that the safety of dermal fillers during pregnancy and breastfeeding has not been established.

Resources

1. Calvert Dermatology. Fillers. [Calvert Dermatology](#)
2. U.S. Food & Drug Administration. Dermal fillers (soft tissue fillers). [FDA](#)
3. U.S. Food & Drug Administration. Dermal filler do's and don'ts for wrinkles, lips and more. [FDA](#)
4. American Academy of Dermatology. Fillers: Overview. [American Academy of Dermatology](#)
5. American Society for Dermatologic Surgery. Dermal fillers. [American Society for Dermatologic Surgery](#)