



Did you know? Australians had 1.5 million injections of Botox and Dysport in 2009, says the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery.



stop the clock

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+ Cost: Pearl laser costs \$2000 for a full face. Pearl fusion, which is more intense and suitable for acne scarring and anti-ageing, costs \$3500. Adding an autologous blood injection costs an extra \$500.

Botox and fillers

Injectables are by far the most popular cosmetic treatments in Australia. Botox is still the most popular, and has been around since the late 1980s, but Dysport is a more recent addition. Both are designed to relax muscles and make expression lines less obvious. Dysport is cheaper per unit than Botox, but Dr Hkeik says you need up to three times as much for the same result.

The world of fillers was revolutionised in the 1990s when cosmetic surgeons first started used hyaluronic acid instead of collagen in their injections, in brands such as Restylane and later Juvéderm.

+ The injection-free facelift

With Pellevé, the latest celebrity fad, a current is passed through the skin, which Dr Hkeik says causes a contraction of collagen and encourages new collagen growth.

+ Cost: A full-face treatment requires one to three sessions and a top-up each year. Sessions cost about \$820.

Hyaluronic acid is found in the skin and is involved in tissue repair and maintaining moisture. It was originally extracted from rooster combs, but is now synthetically produced.

The latest development in hyaluronic acid fillers is Modélis, a thicker, firmer formulation.

"It's ideal for soft cheeks and facial sculpting," Dr Hkeik says.

Sculptra, a dermal thickener which arrived in Australia 10 years ago, is still a popular facial-sculpting technique. It is a filler of poly-L-lactic acid that causes the skin to produce more collagen.

+ Cost: Botox and Dysport cost about \$280 for each section of the face. The effects last for three to four months.

Modélis costs \$1400 for cheek and chin sculpting and lasts for 18 months to two years.

Sculptra requires two to three sessions and costs between \$750 to \$1500 a session. The effects last for three years. **b**



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