



read my lips

ENHANCING THE APPEARANCE OF THE LIPS CAN ADD BALANCE TO THE ENTIRE FACE. WORDS BY GILLIAN SAMUEL

Enhancing the volume and shape of the lips can have a dramatic effect on the overall appearance of the face, says Sydney cosmetic physician Dr Joseph Hkeik.

'The mouth is a key facial feature. Attention should be paid to the lips to ensure they are in harmony with the other facial features and are a beautiful shape,' he says.

He achieves this using dermal filler injected in small volumes in different areas of the mouth. 'I use all the fillers available in Australia for lip augmentation, including long-lasting Aquamid. If a patient is happy with the temporary results of an absorbable filler then they can move to a longer lasting option,' he explains.

Dr Hkeik injects the greatest volume of filler into the soft part of the lips. 'This is injected from the lip border to minimise the risk of bruising,' he explains.

In the case study opposite, seen recently on *Mornings*

with *Kerri-Anne*, Dr Hkeik's patient, a beauty therapist from Sydney, wanted to replace some of the lost volume from her top lip.

'I also wanted to rebalance my facial features, in particular my large eyes, to create a more harmonious look,' she says.

'The lips need to be matched with the eyes to create harmony and balance'

Dr Hkeik redefined her lip border by using a small amount of dermal filler placed along the lip line to define the outline without allowing it to protrude or look unnatural. He also used a small amount of filler to accentuate her Cupid's bow.

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'I also like to define the philtrum – the groove from the base of the nose to the Cupid's bow – which often needs to be rebuilt because it flattens with age, causing the upper lip to lengthen. Filler in this area creates the illusion that the upper lip is shorter and gives it a fuller appearance which makes that part of the face younger looking,' he says.

He stresses the need to match the lips with the eyes to create harmony and balance between these two important elements in facial beauty. 'Lip enhancement should not be overdone,' he cautions. 'I aim for natural-looking results. Most of my patients who undergo lip enhancement tell me that other people can't tell they have had their lips injected.'



BEFORE



AFTER lip enhancement by Dr Hkeik



AFTER lip enhancement by Dr Hkeik



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