

Actual patient of Dr Hkeik

B Beautiful lips

THE HARMONY OF THE MOUTH IN RELATION TO THE OTHER FACIAL FEATURES IS PARAMOUNT, DR JOSEPH HKEIK SAYS. GILLIAN SAMUEL REPORTS.

Enhancing the appearance of the lips can create a major impact, according to Dr Hkeik of All Saints Cosmedical Clinic in Sydney.

'The mouth is a key facial feature with which we communicate and express ourselves, so great attention should be paid to the lips to ensure they are in harmony with the eyes 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 the lips, including the very long-lasting Aquamid, so that if a patient is happy with the temporary results of an absorbable filler they can move to a much longer lasting option,' he explains.

Dr Hkeik tailors his treatment for each patient, addressing the different components of the lips as required. 'I choose from a range of options to treat an individual patient,' he says. 'The lip border needs to be subtle, not prominent, so I use a very small amount of filler placed along the lip line just to define the outline without allowing the border to protrude – that's not a natural look and gives away that the lips have been injected.'

'While defining the border I also address the corners of the lips,' he says. 'If they are down-turned you can push the

corners up by injecting below the corners.' Dr Hkeik finds injecting a very small volume of dermal filler into the lip borders can solve the problem of lipstick feathering.

'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.' The design of the enhancement is tapered off in the corners to raise the peaks of the Cupid's bow.

'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.

Dr Hkeik injects the greatest volume of filler into the pink part of the lips. 'This is injected from the lip border to minimise the risk of bruising. I do the top lip first and then the lower lip, following the shape of the patient's lips and creating two cushiony areas in the centre of the lower lip.' This characteristic of children's lips gives a young look.

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



BEFORE



AFTER lip enhancement by Dr Hkeik