

# TATTLER

A close-up photograph of two women's faces, positioned side-by-side and slightly overlapping. They have light skin, blue eyes, and dark hair pulled back. The lighting is soft and directional, highlighting their features. The background is a neutral, light grey.

BEAUTY  
& *cosmetic*  
*surgery*  
GUIDE  
2011

# Treatments tested by Tatler:

# FACE

## CREPEY EYES

**The solution** The newest superstar in radiowave technology is **Pellevé** – a skin-tightening laser that works to smooth fine lines and tighten up bags with no anaesthesia or burns-victim side effects. A wand-shaped laser is moved round the eyes in tiny circles, sending radiofrequency waves deep below the surface. As the wand heats, the collagen in the skin contracts and new growth is stimulated, easing crow's feet and crumpled corners around the treated area. Much easier to tolerate than other radiofrequency skin-tightening systems, it's like having your creases gently ironed away with each stroke.

**Pain factor** Key to the procedure is feedback from the patient to prevent the skin getting too hot. Our tester felt a warm tingling sensation that was rather mild and almost relaxing, and not painful at all. **Downtime** One of the most exciting benefits is that there's no need to go into hiding when you leave the clinic.

Results  
**8/10**

Our tester saw a slight improvement immediately, but the real results – visible lifting and tightening – take up to a month to kick in. The second treatment really makes a difference. Pellevé works much faster than Thermage and costs less.

There may be slight swelling and redness for up to 24 hours afterwards but that can be covered up with make-up. **Who to see** Dr Rita Rakus at 34a Hans Road, SW3 (tel: 020 7460 7324; dritarakus.com). She recommends a course of three treatments for the eyes, which cost £600 each.

## THIN LIPS

**The solution** **Restylane Vital** differs from the traditional dermal fillers used to plump up a specific wrinkle or crease. The Lip Smoothie treatment is about gently volumising rather than over-inflating – dehydrated lips become fuller but not balloon-like. Small, controlled doses of hyaluronic-acid gel are injected quickly and plentifully using a very fine needle, over the entire surface of the mouth. The acid molecules in the gel suck up water like a sponge and deliver a perfectly plump pout.

**Pain factor** Our tester found the sensation eye-watering and toe-curling, despite the topical anaesthetic cream (applied to the area an

hour before treatment). However, Restylane Vital has since become available in combination with the local anaesthetic lidocaine, which helps greatly reduce discomfort. Two treatment sessions four weeks apart are recommended, which allows the lips to settle in the interim.

**Downtime** This depends on whether the patient is a bruiser or not. Swelling and redness will disappear within 12 to 24 hours, but for all the delicate peaches out there, bruising could last up to a week.

Results  
**9/10**

Results are cumulative rather than immediate, but our tester saw a definite increase in elasticity and smoothness. Those infuriating rivulets that fill with lipstick are diminished. Top-up treatments will be needed at six to nine months.

**Who to see** Dr Tracy Mountford at the Cosmetic Skin Clinic, 10 Harley Street, W1 (tel: 01753 646660; cosmeticskinclinic.com). Treatment costs from £500 for two sessions.

## SUNKEN cheeks

**The solution** **Ellansé** is a new gel filler made of Polycaprolactone – the stuff used in self-dissolving stitches. The major advantage is that it has a great track record of biocompatibility with the skin, and so far there have been no allergic reactions. It not only fills out tissue but encourages the body to make new collagen. Ellansé has been used in Russia, Holland, Spain, Portugal and France cosmetically for the past two years – it gained popularity when doctors in Amsterdam used it to restore lost facial volume on gaunt HIV patients. The results were remarkable – even though in some cases multiple syringes had to be used, it was noted that it gave an incredibly soft, natural look rather than creating a puffy, pillowy face, making it perfect for sculpting features to get rid of hollow cheeks and sunken temples. It works wonders on plumping up scrawny hands as well.

**Pain factor** The filler is mixed with an anaesthetic so it aches rather than stings when injected. Skin will be a bit red, swollen and tender for a couple of days.

**Downtime** Our tester found that for the first few minutes after injecting, the skin looked like it might blister, but it quickly settles down and to the untrained eye nothing looks awry. If you have delicate areas such as temples and cheekbones filled, it's advisable to sleep on your back the night after treatment. Invest in a support pillow that has a special neck section designed to stop you turning onto your side.

**Who to see** Dr Daniel Sister at Beauty Works West, 8–9 Lambton Place, W11 (tel: 020 7221 2248; beautyworks

west.com). Treatment costs from £550 a syringe, and Dr Sister says one or two will fill a whole face. ▷

Results  
**9/10**

Our tester had tried half a dozen different fillers before Ellansé and praised it as the best so far – it rebalanced her features without giving her chipmunk cheeks. Better still, two months later everything had stayed firmly in place.