

# FDA Approves Sculptra (R) Aesthetic

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Sanofi-Aventis U.S., a leading global pharmaceutical company, has announced the FDA approval of Sculptra (R) Aesthetic, a long lasting injectable product used for restoration and correction of deep folds, wrinkles and facial contouring. Approved in 2004 by the Food and Drug Administration for facial lipoatrophy or facial wasting, plastic surgeons are now using Sculptra (R) Aesthetic in healthy patients who have lost volume in their face and have a drawn look due to aging. Sculptra (R) Aesthetic, unlike fillers, is a collagen stimulator and can be used to reshape the face with the patient's own collagen. It is injected once a month for 2-4 months and has extraordinary staying power of two or more years, a great leap from other fillers including collagen, hyaluronic acids and fat injections that only last several months.

Joseph Eviatar, M.D., board certified eyelid and facial plastic surgeon and Surgical Director of Chelsea Eye and Cosmetic Surgery Associates is a lead investigator for Sculptra and has used the product off-label and for treatment of lipodystrophy for many years; he is excited that approval has been given for its aesthetic use. He has treated more patients with Sculptra than any other surgeon in New York City and has traveled extensively over the last 3 years to lecture on its uses and train physicians on injection techniques. According to Dr. Eviatar, "Loss of soft tissue should be replaced with soft tissue. Facial implants are solid blocks that are immobile and may look good if the face is in one position, yet may look bad in another. Sculptra (R) Aesthetic allows for facial mobility and animation while dramatically adding volume and lifting areas in need.



Because it is the patient's own collagen that creates the volume, the result is natural looking and lasts 2-3 years, and because it is non-surgical, it is extremely safe with minimal downtime for patients.

Sculptra (R) Aesthetic is used safely in men and women who see signs of fat loss or aging but may not necessarily be ready for a face lift. Sculptra (R) Aesthetic is an injectable form of poly L-lactic acid, a biocompatible (will not harm the body) and biodegradable (can be broken down by the body) synthetic polymer from the alpha-hydroxy family that has been widely used for many years in dissolvable stitches, bone screws and facial implants.

According to Dr. Eviatar, injections of Sculptra (R) Aesthetic must be performed by a trained professional. If injected improperly, nodules can form beneath the skin which are palpable, but not visible. "This is a rare occurrence, if the treatment is performed by an experienced injector, but it is easily treated with massage or a local steroid injection."

Sculptra (R) Aesthetic has undergone years of clinical trials and patients have shown no side effects or allergic reactions, hence testing before injection is not necessary. Sculptra is injected deep beneath the skin and provides a gradual and significant increase in skin thickness improving the appearance of folds and sunken areas.