



Allen Rezai M.D.

Consultant Plastic, Aesthetic & Reconstructive Surgeon

Compassionate Care You Can Trust

Facial Fat Grafting



How does facial fat grafting work?

The characteristics of an aging face include wrinkling of the skin due to sun exposure and loss of elasticity, sagging of soft tissues due to gravity, and loss of volume in the face giving the face a haggard and hollow appearance. Fat grafting, also referred to as stem-cell fat transfer, free fat transfer, autologous fat transfer, fat injections and lipofilling, is a minimally invasive procedure where the patient's own fat is harvested from one area of the body (abdomen waist, hips and the buttocks) and re-implanted where needed. Facial Fat Grafting replaces the lost facial volume, restoring the face to its natural, youthful appearance.

Although fat grafting is most commonly used on the face, it can also correct atrophic aging of the hands and post-surgical and post-traumatic defects. However it is important to understand that not every area of the body responds well to fat transfer.

How is the procedure carried out?

Depending on the extent of the area being treated, facial fat grafting can be performed under either general or local anaesthetic. It is a non-invasive procedure with minimal scarring. Recovery time is minimal, and most patients can return to work and/or other non-strenuous activities the day after the procedure.

There are three parts to this procedure:

Harvest:

- The donor site is prepared. Fat is harvested from areas of the body where the fat is most tightly packed, such as the abdomen or the buttocks.
- The fat is harvested using a cannula (thin hollow needle) connected to a syringe. This process is very similar to liposuction.

Purification:

- Fat is purified either by hand or mechanically to obtain fat cells for grafting and the fat cells are prepared for transfer.

Grafting:

- Area for graft is prepared. With a canula the prepared fat cells are injected into the area. The injection is repeated until the desired correction is achieved.

Facial fat grafting can be used for correcting or improving:

- * Thin or gaunt areas of the face
- * Asymmetric areas of the face
- * Sunken Eyelids, Thinning lips
- * Soft tissues of chin and cheeks
- * Temples, Jawline
- * Facial scars from acne or trauma

Are there any side effects?

The most apparent side effect is excessive swelling which can last for about two weeks following surgery. Also, some bruising can appear. The most often occurring complications of fat grafting include overcorrection (too much fat injected), under correction (the desired results is not achieved), clumping of the graft, infection, scarring in the donor area or bleeding.

How many treatments are necessary?

Fat has a tendency to become re-absorbed into the body and, as it is not possible to predict exactly how much fat will survive after grafting is complete, follow-up appointments are necessary to monitor the results. When fat grafting is successful, natural results are achieved which last 1 year or longer.

In most cases the results are permanent after repeated (usually 3-4) separate injection treatments.

Consultation procedure

During your consultation with Dr Rezai, your concerns will be discussed, your medical history is taken to confirm suitability of treatment, all aspects of treatment including possible risks and complications are explained and there is also an opportunity for any questions you may have to be answered.

A treatment plan is then tailored to suit your needs, taking into account your medical history, your concerns and your goals.



Allen Rezai M.D.

Consultant Plastic, Aesthetic & Reconstructive Surgeon

Compassionate Care You Can Trust

40 Harley Street
London W1G 9PP

Tel: +44 (0)20 7580 8001

Web: www.cosmeticsurgeryspecialists.co.uk