

## Sculptra™ Treatment for Facial Re-Volumisation

### Patient Information Leaflet

#### What is Sculptra™?

Sculptra™ is a polymer (long chain of molecules) of L-lactic acid. Sculptra™ is manufactured biosynthetically and so is not derived from animal products. L-lactic acid is a naturally occurring product within the body and is metabolised by the body, breaking it down to carbon dioxide and water, which are breathed out through the lungs.

#### How does Sculptra™ work?

Sculptra™ is injected into the deep layers of the skin in areas of the face which have lost volume either due to age or due to changes in body weight which often affect the face disproportionately. The loss of volume causes sagging of the skin of the face and the appearance of depressions or hollows particularly around the temples, cheeks and in the areas lines between the nose and mouth.

Sculptra™ is thought to cause an irritant reaction in the deep part of the skin which stimulates the collagen producing cells (fibroblasts) to produce more collagen. Collagen this is the structural support for the skin and this thickens the skin causes a restoration of volume and improvement in texture.

Once injected, there is an initial apparent restoration of volume due to the water in which the Sculptra™ is suspended. This water is absorbed over 3-4 days and the sagging or hollows return (the paradoxical effect). Then over the subsequent weeks the skin begins to produce collagen which gradually fills the depressions and hollows and lifts and tightens the skin.

#### When and how long does Sculptra™ work?

Sculptra™ is not a filler product and the effects rely on the skins natural regenerative properties. Due to the fact that the treatment is dependant upon the skins reaction everyone responds differently so we are unable to guarantee results. Multiple treatments will be necessary in order to achieve best results. Patients usually require 3-4 treatments. The effects may not be apparent for 4-6 weeks after each treatment and the skin can continue to improve for several months after the end of treatment.

The effects of Sculptra™ are longer lasting than filler products. Studies show durations in the order of 24 months and some even longer – although each individual is different.

Because of the relatively slow nature of the improvement we will take photographs of you initially and before each treatment session to allow a more accurate clinical assessment.

#### Potential adverse effects (side effects)

Sculptra™ is generally a safe and effective treatment method. Nevertheless, certain side effects can occur these include, but are not limited to: bleeding and bruising, pain, redness, swelling and inflammation.

#### Complications of treatment:

Like any medical procedure Sculptra™ can have complications. The foreseeable complications of this treatment include, but are not limited to: nodule formation in the skin (these may be invisible but palpable to touch or they may be visible and thickened), infection, abscess formation, allergic reaction, skin hypertrophy, atrophy or discolouration and the formation of granulomas (localised inflammatory nodules in the skin)

#### Contraindications

- Pregnancy
- Breast-feeding
- Blood coagulation disorders and people taking anticoagulants (including aspirin and other anti-inflammatory drugs)
- Abnormal skin scarring reactions (including Keloid)
- Known allergy to any of the constituent products of Sculptra™
- Local skin infection (until treated and subsided)

**Interactions with other products:**

Because the interaction of Sculptra™ with other products has not been studied, we do not advise treatment in any area which has previously been treated by any other injectable product for a minimum of 12 months.

**What else do you need to know?**

Before proceeding to treatment you **must** have read and understood the booklet “*What you need to know to restore your youthful appearance*” about Sculptra™. If you have not received a copy of this booklet please ask for one before booking a treatment appointment.

Please use the space below to write down any additional questions you may wish to ask the doctor at the time of your consultation:

Questions:

Dr Philip Dobson

The Beaufort Clinic  
Beaufort Drive  
Willen  
Milton Keynes  
MK15 9ET

t: 0845 003 7364

w: [www.philipdobson.com](http://www.philipdobson.com)