THERE HAS BEEN A LONG-STANDING NEED FOR FILLER MATERIALS IN THE FIELD OF COSMETIC SURGERY. THESE MATERIALS ARE USED TO FILL IN THE SPACES AND FURROWS CAUSED BY AGING. THEY CAN ALSO BE USED TO IMPROVE THE BEAUTY OR HANDSOMENESS OF THE FACE. THIS ARTICLE REVIEWS MANY OF THE TEMPORARY FILLERS. WE WILL ALSO DISCUSS OUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH LIVEFILL™ GRAFTS WHICH ARE COMPOSED OF DISARTICULATED (BROKEN UP) FASCIAL (A NATURALLY-OCCURRING STRONG SUPPORTIVE TISSUE) FAT GRAFTS. I DISCOVERED AND HAVE CONDUCTED STUDIES ON LIVEFILL™ GRAFT VIABILITY (ABILITY TO STAY ALIVE) AND ON THEIR LONG-TERM SURVIVAL.

he facial areas where LiveFill™ can be used include the lips for lip augmentation; the nasolabial folds (the smile lines, wrinkles or folds that are located between the nose and the angle of the mouth); marionette lines (the puppet-like lines located downward from the corners of the mouth); the glabellar creases (the frown lines located between the eyebrows); temporal hollowing (the concavities located in the temple areas); in the malar (cheekbone) and sub-malar (underneath the cheek bone) areas. LiveFill™ can be used to correct cheek collapse, instead of using artificial cheek implants. LiveFill™ can be used to correct lip corner crinkles. If you have a hollowness in the area located between your upper and lower teeth in the cheeks (known as the buccal area), LiveFill™ can also be used to correct this.

Temporary fillers can be used to enhance the lips; fill in the smile lines and fill in the areas below the eyes. The most popular filler in use today is collagen. There are many other injectable fillers, including Restylane, Alloderm, Perlane, Juvaderm, Hyaluronic acid products (Captique, Restylane, Hylaform), NuFill, and a number of fillers based either on plastic beads (Artecoll) or silicone (Silikon 1000).

All of these fillers have associated problems and limitations. Collagen, although safe in the vast majority of patients, has only temporary effects and usually lasts 3 months, at the most. Restylane and other hyaluronic acid products, last approximately 4 to 6 months. All of these fillers disappear and therefore require re-injection. Synthetic materials (Gore-Tex and SAM) can leave three-dimensional irregularities in the skin. They may also be felt through the skin. Alloderm is made up of cadaver material. Injectable silicone tends to migrate over time and it can cause chronic infections.

Any permanent or semi-permanent material (e.g. Artecoll) that does not carry its own blood supply with it,

Diagram I: Notice the locations of facial aging.





Diagram 2: This diagram illustrates the locations where LiveFill can be used to treat facial aging.