What are dermal fillers?
In youth, an abundance of two important substances, collagen and hyaluronic acid, keep your skin looking smooth and supple. Collagen is a protein that provides your skin with structural support. Hyaluronic acid is a natural sugar found in all living cells that attracts and binds water, hydrating the skin and giving it volume. With time, sunlight and other factors, collagen and hyaluronic acid in your skin diminish, the skin loses structure and volume, and unwelcome lines and wrinkles appear.

Hyaluronic acid is a safe and natural cosmetic dermal filler that restores volume and fullness to the skin to correct facial wrinkles and folds, such as the lines from the nose towards the mouth, and the lines from the lips to the chin (sometimes called nasolabial folds, or "laugh lines" and "marionette lines"). Hyaluronic acid is also very popular for lip augmentation. Products containing hyaluronic acid have virtually replaced collagen injections, especially those products derived from cowhide. No allergy testing is required prior to receiving injections. Hyaluronic acid can also be used for minor skin divots and an attempt can be made to improve facial asymmetries, which many of us have.

How does it work?
Hyaluronic acid is a crystal-clear gel. The product is manufactured by a biotechnology process and is not derived from animals. Hyaluronic acid is a normal constituent of many body tissues, including skin, joint fluid, and parts of the eye. Hyaluronic acid draws the body's own moisture into the areas where it is placed, creating a pleasant cosmetic correction and filling of lines and wrinkles. It is most commonly used in the lower face and lips (whereas Botox® injections are more commonly used for upper face lines and wrinkles).

How long do dermal fillers last?
Juvéderm is proven to deliver long-lasting results. Studies have shown that Juvéderm effects generally last for 6-12 months. Lip augmentation typically lasts 4-6 months. The unique properties of Juvéderm helps maintain the cosmetic effect until the injected material is nearly gone. We do find that clients who maintain regular injection schedules get longer lasting benefits.

Where can dermal fillers be used?
Hyaluronic acid gels have been used in over 70 countries to correct a variety of wrinkles and to enhance the appearance of the lip border. It is currently approved by the US Food & Drug Administration for the treatment of facial wrinkles and folds and most commonly is used in the lower half of the face. Wrinkles on the upper portion of the face can be treated with hyaluronic acid gels but it is Dr. O'Brien's opinion that Botox® injections are more effective in that area.

What can I expect from the treatment?
Hyaluronic acid gel is injected directly into the skin in small amounts with an ultrafine needle, resulting in some discomfort. Results are instantaneous, and Dr. O'Brien often shows you the results as the injections progress, using a hand-held mirror. The injections typically take 30-40 minutes, and to optimize your comfort, a local anesthetic to numb the treatment area may be recommended. Stinging and minor bleeding at the injection site is common. There is likely to be a slight flush that sometimes bruises for a few days. Avoiding St. John's Wort, high doses of vitamin E, aspirin, and other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications such as ibuprofen can reduce these side-effects. There is typically some swelling to the injected tissues which can last 1-3 days. Makeup can be used immediately after the injections.

How much does it cost?
Hyaluronic acid gel is injected in a manner customized to your specific needs, so the cost will vary from patient to patient. The range is $575-675 per 1 ml syringe depending on the product chosen for you. Most clients require between 1 and 3 syringes. Therefore, cost is determined by the quantity of the product required to achieve your desired results. Dr. O'Brien will discuss your expectations and answer additional questions at your consultation appointment. Prices are subject to change without notice.

Call today for an expert, FREE CONSULTATION : 970-945-8503.