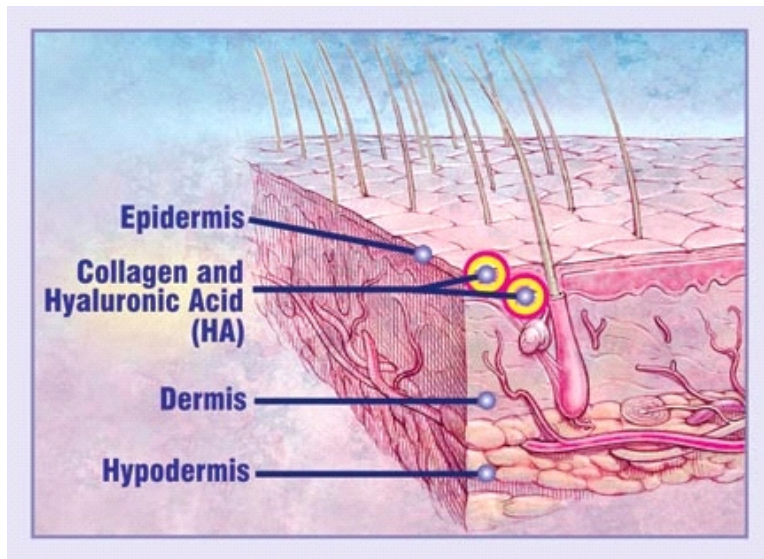


Hyaluronic Acid

Hyaluronic acid is found in the synovial joint fluid, the vitreous humor of the eye, the cartilage, blood vessels, extracellular matrix, skin and the umbilical cord.



As Hyaluronic Acid is present in every tissue of the body; hyaluronic acid's importance cannot be underestimated. Retention of water is one of the most important biological functions of hyaluronic acid, 1 second only to providing nutrients and removing waste from cells that do not have a direct blood supply, such as cartilage cells.

With a lower than adequate amount of hyaluronic acid, nutrients cannot be moved into these cells and waste cannot be eliminated from cells. Hyaluronic acid is sometimes abbreviated as HA.

Hyaluronic acid has been approved by the FDA. It can be administered only by a qualified provider in a series of injections as mentioned above. Most insurance companies are currently paying for these injections, after traditional and conservative measures have been attempted.

It is well documented that fetal tissues contain large amounts of Hyaluronic Acid and that decreasing Hyaluronic Acid content correlates with aging and wrinkling. Therefore practical attempts to prolong and recapture youth by revitalizing damaged tissue should include this molecule.

Juvéderm is an injectable gel consisting of hyaluronic acid. Hyaluronic acid is a naturally occurring substance in the skin that helps to add volume and hydration. Therefore no allergy test is necessary before treatment. The smooth consistency gel helps to instantly restore the skin's volume and smooth away facial wrinkles and folds, like the "smile lines" or nasolabial folds-the creases that run from the bottom of the nose to the corners of the mouth. It is also used with much success for lip augmentation. A Juvéderm treatment takes about 20-30 minutes and results are immediate. Plus, there is minimal recovery or downtime.

Restylane is a gel of hyaluronic acid produced by bacteria and used for treating facial wrinkles and folds. Hyaluronic acid is a substance that is normally produced by the body. Hyaluronic acid is what gives skin its volume and fullness.