

Risks of filler injection

Filler injection can lead to problems. Possible complications include:

- Infection. Call your doctor if you have new redness, swelling, or pain after the first day. You may need [antibiotics](#) right away.
- Bleeding or bruising. Before a filler injection, avoid alcohol use and stop taking any [blood](#)-thinning medicine. This includes [aspirin](#), any other type of [nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug \(NSAID\)](#), or [vitamin E](#).
- [Allergic reaction](#), such as [rash](#), [hives](#), swelling, or [flu](#)-like symptoms.
- Lumpy skin surface after treatment.

There are rare reports of serious or life-threatening complications after filler injection, including [anaphylactic shock](#), [sepsis](#), [blood clot](#) in the retinal [artery](#) leading to blindness, skin breakdown (necrosis), and [abscess](#) needing drainage.

What To Think About

If you have a lot of [herpes zoster](#) or [herpes simplex](#) outbreaks, a filler injection could trigger a flare-up. If you have several [herpes](#) outbreaks a year, your doctor will want you to take an antiviral medicine before having a filler injection.

Each syringe of filler costs several hundred dollars. Costs vary, depending on the type of filler. Talk to your doctor ahead of time about how many you will use, how often, and at what cost. [Health insurance](#) is unlikely to pay for this treatment.