

Straightening the Line: Dermal Fillers for the Pre-Jowl Sulcus



One of the earliest and most bothersome signs of aging in the lower face is the formation of jowls. However, what many patients perceive as a "heavy jowl" is actually an optical illusion caused by volume loss in front of it. This area is called the "pre-jowl sulcus." It is the indentation located between the chin and the jowl on the jawline. As we age, we lose bone and soft tissue in this specific spot, creating a dip. This dip makes the jowl behind it look larger and more prominent by contrast.

For patients seeking **dermal filler Oahu**, treating the pre-jowl sulcus is a game-changer. Instead of trying to dissolve the jowl (which can be risky) or surgically remove it (which is a bigger commitment), we can simply fill the dip in front of it. By placing structural filler in this hollow, we bridge the gap between the chin and the jawline. This camouflages the jowl, creating a straight, continuous line from chin to ear that mimics a youthful jawbone.

The Technique: Bridging the Gap

The procedure involves injecting a high-G-prime (firm) filler deep onto the bone or into the deep subcutaneous plane of the pre-jowl sulcus. We use a product that is sturdy enough to lift the skin and resist deformation, such as Radiesse or Voluma. The goal is to blend the chin into the jawline seamlessly. Patients are often amazed that adding volume can actually make their face look slimmer and tighter. By eliminating the shadow of the indentation, the eye perceives a sharp, linear jaw rather than a wavy, sagging one.

Delaying the Need for Surgery

Treating the pre-jowl sulcus is an excellent strategy for patients in their 40s and 50s who have mild to moderate jowling but aren't ready for a facelift. It

buys time. It doesn't remove the loose tissue, but it hides it effectively. It restores the structural support that has been lost to bone resorption. This technique is often combined with cheek filler to lift the heavy tissue from above, providing a "sandwich" effect that improves the lower face contour significantly.

Anatomy and Safety

This area requires precise knowledge of anatomy, as the mental artery and nerve exit the jawbone nearby. Using a cannula is often the preferred method here to minimize bruising and ensure safety. A cannula allows us to lay down a smooth layer of filler without risking intravascular injection. The results are immediate, though there may be some swelling that makes the jaw look wider for a few days before it settles into a crisp definition.

When Filler Isn't Enough

It is important to know the limits. If the jowl is very heavy or composed mostly of loose skin, adding filler to the sulcus might just make the lower face look wide and heavy. There is a tipping point where camouflaging is no longer effective, and surgical removal (facelift) becomes the better option. An honest consultation will determine if you are in the "camouflaging" phase or the "correcting" phase of aging.

Conclusion

You don't always have to remove a jowl to hide it. By strategically filling the pre-jowl sulcus, we can restore a straight, confident jawline that takes years off your appearance without a single incision.

Call to Action

Find out if you can camouflage your jowls with filler. Schedule an assessment with our expert injectors today.

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