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**Using PRP/PRFM as an alternate method to traditional HA dermal fillers in the face as a stand-alone procedure or in combination with HA dermal filler****Sylvia Silvestri RN**

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Platelet rich plasma (PRP) has been utilized for many years in orthopedics and various other specialties as a means of regenerating new tissue, collagen formation, and vascularity in the joints and body. Because it is autologous, the complication and infection rate is substantially low. It is also a useful alternative procedure for patients wanting only “natural” products administered. Volume deficiency in areas of deeper folds, such as the nasolabial folds (NLFs), typically is treated with injectable dermal fillers alone. Disadvantages include reabsorption, and foreign body reactions such as encapsulation, granuloma formation, or infection, in the case of injectable, permanent fillers. For areas such as this, a combination of hyaluronic acid (HA) and PRP has shown favorable outcomes. The HA product acts as scaffolding for the PRP, which is also injected intra-dermally. Growth factors that are released activate multipotent stem cells that trick the body into thinking there has been an injury, resulting in new tissue regeneration. With the global popularity of procedures such as the vampire facelift and vampire facial, PRP has been gaining more and more recognition in the aesthetic world. Because it does not cause hypersensitivity or foreign body allergic reactions, PRP/platelet-rich fibrin matrix (PRFM) can be a wonderful substitute for patients who do not wish for an HA or permanent type of filler or used in conjunction with HA in the face.

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