

In expert hands, fat—usually softer and more fluid than fillers—can also brighten the thin skin around the eyes. An injection not only smooths wrinkles and fills hollows but also acts as a barrier between skin and underlying facial muscles and blood vessels, hiding dark circles, says the New York plastic surgeon Sydney Coleman. What's more, researchers suspect that the stem cells in fat can actually promote the production of collagen and elastin—and therefore eventually improve the quality of the skin. A session for the lower lids takes about 90 minutes and costs from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Complications can arise, however—often due to overzealous injecting. When this occurs, little divots emerge where a dearth of oxygen has caused the fat cells to die. “You can't do fat grafting casually,” cautions Coleman, who uses tiny increments and as many as 50 passes to complete a procedure around the eye.