

Permanent Pout

If Steven Victor, a New York City dermatologist who injects one to two pairs of lips per day, had a dollar for every patient who came to him clutching a picture of Angelina Jolie, he'd be smiling all the way to the bank. So, can you get the mouth that sank a thousand marriages? "We have to work with your natural architecture," says Dr. Victor, "but I can make your lips as big as you want."

Because he works with purified Silicone 5000, a permanent silicone, Dr. Victor would rather be accused of under-injecting than overdoing it since mistakes, such as bloating or asymmetry, are very hard to correct. For those who want to test-drive the look of the filler before committing, Dr. Victor injects sterile water into the lips to show the patient how the results will look before proceeding with the real stuff.

While old-school silicone has been blamed for causing lumps and bumps beneath the skin, today's improved silicones are much smoother, says Dr. Victor. However, silicone is not FDA-approved for lip injections, so doctors who use it do so off-label. "I know lots of patients who are happy with the silicone they received," says Eric Bernstein, MD, clinical associate professor of dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania. "The key is that it needs to be injected with real skill."

SHOP
Etc.
The One-Stop Shopping Magazine

✿ **\$38 million: the amount spent on lip plumpers in the US between January and September 2005.**

On model: Philosophy Think Big Big Lips Lip Slicks in apricot and rose, \$20/each; Sephora, 877-737-4672, or philosophy.com