



shape-shifters

The future of in-office cosmetic treatments looks plumper, smoother, firmer. Here, some key (needle) points on what's new and what's next. **BY SARAH KINONEN**



	WHAT IT IS	WHY IT'S NEW	HOW IT WORKS
DAXI	Daxi, short for DaxibotulinumtoxinA for Injection, will be the first neuromodulator to reduce muscle contractions in the face without the use of human or animal components, such as animal-derived proteins.	Current neuromodulators (like Botox and Xeomin) typically offer results that wane after three to four months. Daxi is poised to last longer—about six to eight months. “It’s a good alternative for those that may have become ‘immune’ to the effects of other neurotoxins,” says dermatologist Mona Gohara, MD.	It will be administered like traditional neuromodulators (via a 30- to 33-gauge needle), and has completed FDA trials for glabellar (frown) lines, forehead lines, and crow’s-feet. Expect it to hit dermatologists’ offices within the next year or so.
DERMATOX	This new neuromodulator is a purified toxin that’s chemically similar to Botox, but instead of targeting and smoothing specific lines (the forehead “11s” for example), Dermatox’s goal is to make skin more bouncy and radiant overall.	Rather than being injected into the muscular layer, Dermatox hits the tissue just beneath the skin, says plastic surgeon David Shafer, MD, chief medical technology officer for Aquavit, the maker of Dermatox. Distributing it in “microdroplets all over the face can help with sweating, [reduce] oil production, and give the skin a glow.”	Inspired by Korea’s “skin Botox” in-office treatments, Dermatox will be administered with a microneedling-like system that pierces skin with thousands of shots per minute. Results are expected to last three to five months, and it’s slated for FDA approval sometime in the next few years.
RENUVA	A tissue stimulator made of human-derived growth factors, collagens, and proteins, Renuva “creates a honeycomb-like matrix [under the skin] that then fills with the body’s own fat and stimulates new fat cell proliferation,” says dermatologist Ava Shamban, MD.	Renuva restores volume loss in areas on the face and body with natural fat, like the cheeks and the backs of hands. It’s a less invasive alternative to traditional fat transfer, which involves first harvesting your own fat through liposuction.	“The product is viscous and needs to be injected through a large-bore needle,” says Dr. Shamban. “Renuva itself dissolves [over about three months], but the new fat remains in its place.” For most, the results of a three-session course of Renuva will last at least four years. It’s available now.
SCULPTRA	A volumizing powder called poly-L-lactic acid (suspended in saline), Sculptra triggers the body to make its own collagen. Doctors use it to sculpt jawlines and cheekbones and fill finer lines. It’s been less popular than hyaluronic acids, though, because results take time and are not reversible.	New FDA approvals, like the addition of lidocaine, have made Sculptra more comfortable and convenient to inject. And to avoid an overfilled or puffy look, some doctors are turning to it more often. “Hyaluronic acid provides artificial support. [With Sculptra], you get a natural-[looking] progression,” says dermatologist Dhaval G. Bhanusali, MD.	Post-injection, there’s some instant plumping, but it fades within a few days. Then, over three to six months, “there’s a gradual filling effect that looks like [you] are aging in reverse,” says Dr. Bhanusali. “I call it the Benjamin Button injection.” Results can last upwards of two years.

MODEL: SABINE VILLIARD/TRUNK ARCHIVE.