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# AESTHETIC

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## Dermal Fillers Review

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### **EVOLENCE Challenges HA Fillers**

Collagen has re-entered the medical aesthetics market in the form of EVOLENCE® and EVOLENCE® Breeze™ (ColBar LifeScience Ltd., Herzliya, Israel). These new versions of a time honored collagen-based filler are quickly gaining popularity versus the well established market leader, hyaluronic acid (HA), according to David Shoshani, M.D., ColBar's vice president of medical affairs. "ColBar is the only company delivering a product that can achieve 12 months of aesthetic correction," Dr. Shoshani noted. "The key to such longevity is the Glymatrix™ Technology we use to cross-link the collagen. EVOLENCE is thicker for more structural correction, whereas EVOLENCE Breeze is softer for more superficial correction."

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# EABG CLINICAL roundtable

## ColBar Designs Next Generation Collagen-Based Dermal Filler

By Lara G. Owens, Contributing Editor

Dr. Shoshani explained that the concentration of the cross-linking agent and the number of cross-linked bonds determine a filler's duration in the body. "The problem with HA's and earlier cross-linked collagens is that both groups of products are cross-linked with a toxic chemical such as glutaraldehyde, butanediol diglycidylether (BDDE), or others. This toxicity limits the amount of the agent that can safely be used, therefore it also limits the duration of the product's effects. And the non cross-linked collagens only last one month, maybe two."

ColBar uses ribose, a non-toxic sugar, to cross-link the chemical bonds. "We can decide how much to cross-link by deciding how long we want the product to last," Dr. Shoshani noted. "We can make the filler last four months or two years." ColBar patented the technology for heavy cross-linking, and according to the initial pre-clinical study, the product lasts for 18 to 24 months. EVOLENCE is also formulated from porcine collagen, which does not require allergy testing before injection.

### Editor's Note:

In the following Clinical Roundtable discussion, two dermatologists, one plastic surgeon and one aesthetic specialist share their knowledge and experience with EVOLENCE® and EVOLENCE® Breeze™.

### What has been your experience with EVOLENCE and EVOLENCE Breeze?

**Kevin C. Smith, M.D.** – Breeze may be better for really fine wrinkles and maybe for the lips, but I find myself using EVOLENCE for just about everything. It's been a great product.



**Kevin Smith, M.D.**  
Dermatologist  
Niagara Falls Dermatology and  
Skin Care Center  
Niagara Falls, Canada

**Christopher Inglefield, M.D.** – I like the formulation of the product. It has long-term stability and doesn't require pre-testing. EVOLENCE Breeze is soft, easy to inject and more user-friendly.

**Patrizia Piersini, M.D.** – I am having a good experience with this new product because of its longevity compared to HA's. I also like that it's so biocompatible.

**Said Hilton, M.D.** – Generally I use more EVOLENCE Breeze than the Classic because it's softer. It works well for those fine-to-moderate wrinkles. For deeper wrinkles, I do use the EVOLENCE Classic.

### What anatomical areas do you treat with EVOLENCE or EVOLENCE Breeze?

**Dr. Inglefield** – We use EVOLENCE Breeze in the upper lip, nasolabial folds, tear troughs, glabellar lines and forehead lines. We use it a lot in the nose six months after surgery to smooth out the bridge and correct asymmetries in the tip. It also works well for structural replacement in patients who aren't candidates for surgery.

**Dr. Piersini** – I use EVOLENCE a lot for dark circles under the eyes because it doesn't swell up like HA. I like EVOLENCE Breeze for fine wrinkles around the lips and the vermilion border, but for volume, I prefer EVOLENCE.

**Dr. Hilton** – I like EVOLENCE for deep nasolabial folds, marionette lines and cheek augmentation. It's also our standard procedure for nose correction.

**Dr. Smith** – We use it in the lips, nasolabial folds, marionette lines, perioral lines, scars and tear troughs.

### How many patients have you treated with EVOLENCE and EVOLENCE Breeze?

**Dr. Hilton** – I've treated 312 patients over the last two years.

**Dr. Inglefield** – My patient count is coming up on 100.

**Dr. Smith** – I've treated several hundred.

*“EVOLENCE provides the ideal time frame for correction, 12 months, and that’s what patients want.”*

**Dr. Piersini** – I’ve been using the products for more than a year, so I’ve treated many patients.

**What attracted you to these fillers?**

**Dr. Piersini** – It impressed me that EVOLENCE was long lasting, biocompatible, safe and natural looking.

**Dr. Smith** – I liked the longevity and the lower risk of bleeding and bruising. Collagen causes blood to clot (haemostatic effect), whereas HA’s have a smaller haemostatic effect. Bruising is also more frequent in HA fillers.

**Dr. Inglefield** – I did early studies on porcine collagen and was looking for a good collagen filler when EVOLENCE came out. Since then this new filler has been very useful in our practice.

**Dr. Hilton** – I liked the promise that it would last for around 12 months, which is much longer than HA fillers.

**What are the durations of clinical effects for EVOLENCE and EVOLENCE Breeze?**

**Dr. Inglefield** – EVOLENCE provides the ideal time frame for correction, 12 months, and that’s what patients want. The problem with permanent fillers is they can create permanent problems.

**Dr. Hilton** – This product lasts 12 months, and even longer in some cases.

**Dr. Piersini** – In my experience, EVOLENCE provides between 10 and 14 months of improvement.

**Dr. Smith** – Correction depends on the area treated, but typically lasts 6 to 12 months.



**Christopher Inglefield, M.D.**  
Plastic Surgeon  
London Bridge Plastic Surgery  
London, England

**What are the roles of EVOLENCE and EVOLENCE Breeze in your practice?**

**Dr. Hilton** – One of our top indications is the lips, so Breeze is very popular. We’ll also combine the fillers with Botox, especially when treating the glabellar folds and perioral wrinkles.

**Dr. Inglefield** – It’s not well known in the U.K., but I recommend it. I get a great, long lasting improvement when EVOLENCE and HA are combined. We’re replacing the collagen for structural support, but the HA helps support the loss of hydration in aging skin.

**Dr. Piersini** – Many patients have tried EVOLENCE and are very happy. I’ll sometimes do a chemical peel or a laser to stimulate collagen production, and then inject EVOLENCE for a smoother appearance.

**Dr. Smith** – We use them a lot in patients who desire immediate correction with minimal risk of bruising. This might be a person with an upcoming social engagement.

**What are the advantages of EVOLENCE filler products over competitors?**

**Dr. Hilton** – One advantage is definitely longevity. The second is the reduced swelling, especially in the lips. With HA’s, some patients have swelling for three to five days. With EVOLENCE, we don’t have that kind of swelling.

**Dr. Smith** – The cross-linking technology is better in EVOLENCE than HA’s. The sugar molecules are more stable and more resistant to degradation, and patients like the idea of sugar more than formaldehyde.

**Dr. Inglefield** – The major advantage over HA is the 12 to 18 month improvement. Also, patients get very little bruising and swelling after injection.

**Dr. Piersini** – EVOLENCE is made with sugar, which is not toxic to the human body.



Before Rhinoplasty



After Gortex Graft to bridge



Three months after tip refinement with EVOLENCE

Photos courtesy of Christopher Inglefield, M.D.

*“We have very high patient satisfaction. Patients appreciate the limited downtime and the long lasting improvement.”*



Lips before Tx



Lips after EVOLENCE Tx

Photos courtesy of Said Hilton, M.D.

**From your patients’ perspective, what are the major advantages of these fillers?**

**Dr. Piersini** – Swelling is less with EVOLENCE than HA’s, and the correction looks natural, which patients appreciate.

**Dr. Inglefield** – The patient likes that they get a better structural correction. You’d need to use a larger volume of HA to get a similar result.

**Dr. Smith** – Beside the longevity, I think people can see that they don’t bleed as much with collagen as they do with HA.

**Dr. Hilton** – Patients appreciate the longevity and the reduced swelling.

**Do patients experience any adverse effects?**

**Dr. Hilton** – Patients may be swollen for an hour or two, so we apply ice which works perfectly.

**Dr. Smith** – If I inject with a 30 gauge needle, I may get an uneven flow rate, which is why I prefer to use a 27 gauge needle. If this happens, I massage and smooth the product out before it sets. Otherwise the product is very well tolerated and easy to administer.

**Dr. Inglefield** – Patients experience very little post treatment swelling, and no redness.

**Dr. Piersini** – There is no swelling, so patients can get back to work and be social quickly.

**What is downtime like with EVOLENCE fillers, compared to HA’s?**

**Dr. Hilton** – Areas treated with EVOLENCE fillers may have a little pain for two or three days, but patients don’t mind because it’s not an effect you can see.

**Dr. Piersini** – Patients can quickly be back to work or their social life, which is important. HA’s can cause swelling, especially in the lips, for 24 to 48 hours. It’s a problem when 40% of what a patient thinks is correction is actually swelling.

**Dr. Inglefield** – Swelling is minimal, and by the next day, patients are usually able to go back to work.

**Dr. Smith** – Downtime is minimal. EVOLENCE produces much less swelling than Restylane (Q-Med AB, Uppsala, Sweden), though it’s a bit more painful.



**Said Hilton, M.D.**  
Dermatologist  
Düsseldorf, Germany

**What can you say about patient satisfaction?**

**Dr. Piersini** – I don’t have any patients dissatisfied with EVOLENCE. I’m happy with it too.

**Dr. Smith** – Satisfaction is very high, as long as care is taken to prevent excessive fullness in the injected areas.

**Dr. Hilton** – My practice in Düsseldorf is well known so the patients come here knowing what to expect, and they have been very satisfied.

**Dr. Inglefield** – We have very high patient satisfaction. Patients appreciate the limited downtime and the long lasting improvement.

**What do EVOLENCE and EVOLENCE Breeze offer to the aesthetic market?**

**Dr. Inglefield** – EVOLENCE is a very safe, effective collagen replacement for facial rejuvenation. Once people become more aware, they’ll use it more. There is still a place for HA’s, but they aren’t always the answer.

**Dr. Hilton** – I think these products will become the market leaders. The patients will decide if they are willing to pay for the better results, but I think they will because longevity is important to them.

*"You get great control when injecting EVOLENCE Breeze for fine lines and superficial scars."*

**Dr. Piersini** – They are safe products that don't require tests before injection. And they reabsorb so they can follow the natural changes of our features over the years.

**Dr. Smith** – EVOLENCE offers long lasting correction with collagen and minimal downtime.

### What is your injection technique?

**Dr. Smith** – I chill the area with ice for 30 seconds (60 seconds for lips) and then I inject with a BD 27 gauge, 1.25 inch needle. This technique reduces the number of punctures and allows a long, smooth deposit of EVOLENCE rather than the series of small deposits.

**Dr. Hilton** – When injecting HA's, you need continuous pressure because the product is homogeneous. EVOLENCE is more fibrous and behaves differently. I use a tunnel technique to make space under the wrinkle before I inject. Strong pressure can block the needle.

**Dr. Inglefield** – We use a topical anesthetic or a dental block and a cooling system to help reduce pain and swelling. I use a threading technique and add multiple layers to try to replace the lost collagen. With superficial injections I massage the area immediately to spread the filler.

**Dr. Piersini** – We often inject EVOLENCE on the bottom linearly, and then correct the fine wrinkle memory with EVOLENCE Breeze micro-injections to stretch the area.

### What do you see as the future of EVOLENCE?

**Dr. Piersini** – EVOLENCE will be a good tool to help improve the beauty that every woman has in her face. I think we'll also see more men requesting treatment. We already treat a lot of men in the mandible, chin and malar areas.



**Patrizia Piersini, M.D.**  
Medico Chirurgo  
Torino, Italy

**Dr. Smith** – The less pain our patients have, the easier they are to take care of and the more likely they are to come back.

**Dr. Hilton** – I would like to see EVOLENCE used to plump up the hands. Everyone who gets fillers in the face would like to have nicer hands too.

**Dr. Inglefield** – The future for EVOLENCE is really perfecting the techniques to add volume to the lips. The lips are such a dynamic structure, so they can be a challenge to treat.

### Do you have treatment advice to offer?

**Dr. Hilton** – I say try it. It's not new, it just stays longer and swells less, which is what we've all been waiting for. Ultimately the patient will decide. We didn't force Botox (Allergan, Irvine, California, U.S.) on them, but they liked the effects of the procedure. It's not about what convinces me, it's about what patients like the most.

**Dr. Smith** – Sometimes I'll load EVOLENCE into a BD2 0.3 mL diabetic syringe with a swaged-on 31 gauge needle, the one we often use for Botox. Because the barrel diameter of these ultra fine needles is small, it allows for more extrusion force without much effort. You get great control when injecting EVOLENCE Breeze for fine lines and superficial scars.

**Dr. Inglefield** – Think about how to replace what's lost in the skin, rather than about the HA you have on your shelf. It's about picking what's right for each patient.

**Dr. Piersini** – I wouldn't suggest EVOLENCE to any woman who's pregnant, breast feeding, or anyone with an auto-immune disease, of course. But you wouldn't inject any filler into those patients.



Nasolabial folds before Tx



Nasolabial folds six months after EVOLENCE Tx