

CHEEK FILLER

Complications & Red Flags – Quick Reference Card

COMMON & EXPECTED

- Mild-to-moderate swelling
- Tenderness
- Erythema
- Bruising
- Asymmetry

🕒 *Usually self-limiting within 7-14 days*

EARLY COMPLICATIONS

- Overcorrection/poor aesthetic outcome
- Filler migration
- Tyndall effect (bluish discoloration)
- Persistent pain

» *Usually self-limiting within 7-14 days*

VASCULAR OCCLUSION ⚠️ (MEDICAL EMERGENCY)

Signs & Symptoms

- Immediate or severe pain
- Blanching or livedo reticularis
- Dusky, grey, or mottled skin
- Delayed capillary refill
- Cold skin

VASCULAR OCCLUSION ⚠️ (MEDICAL EMERGENCY)

Management

- STOP injecting immediately
- High-dose hyaluronidase
- Warm compress
- Aspirin (if not contraindicated)
- *Urgent escalation if no improvement*

VISION LOSS ⚠️⚠️ (RARE BUT CATASTROPHIC)

Signs

- Sudden visual disturbance
- Blanching or livedo reticularis
- Dusky, grey, or mottled skin
- Delayed capillary refill
- Cold skin

- » STOP injecting immediately
- High-dose hyaluronidase
- Warm compress
- Massage
- Aspirin (if not contraindicated)
- ⚠️ *Urgent escalation if no improvement*

HIGH-RISK ANATOMY

- Infraorbital foramen
- Zygomaticofacial artery
- Facial artery
- Submalar triangle
- ⚠️ *Cheeks = high-risk area. Advanced anatomy knowledge essential.*

RISK REDUCTION

- Aspirate (with awareness of limitations)
- Use minimal volumes
- Slow, low-pressure injections
- Cannula where appropriate
- Continuous patient communication
- Emergency kit immediately available.

DOCUMENTATION

- ✓ Informed consent
- ✓ Risks explained (including blindness)
- ✓ Batch numbers recorded
- ✓ Aftercare provided