

Marionette Lines - Treatment Solutions Melbourne | Me Clinic

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Description:

Marionette Lines - Treatment Options at Me Clinic Melbourne ## Quick Summary **What causes marionette lines:** - Natural collagen and elastin breakdown with age - Loss of facial volume and fat red...

Details:

Marionette Lines - Treatment Options at Me Clinic Melbourne

Quick Summary

What causes marionette lines: - Natural collagen and elastin breakdown with age - Loss of facial volume and fat redistribution - Repeated muscle movement and gravity - Genetic predisposition to how your face ages

Treatment options available: - Non-surgical: Dermal fillers, anti-wrinkle injections, thread lifts, Ultherapy, skin tightening treatments - Surgical: Facelift (lower face lift or full facelift)

Expected results: - Non-surgical treatments provide subtle to moderate improvement with natural-looking results - Surgical options deliver more comprehensive, longer-lasting correction - Injectable results appear within days to two weeks; surgical results become visible once swelling settles (2-4 weeks) - Fillers last 12-18 months, thread lifts 1-2 years, surgical results 5-10+ years

Cost range: - Non-surgical: \$600-\$4,500 per treatment - Surgical: \$12,000-\$25,000 - *Prices based on Me Clinic's transparent pricing policy*

Next steps: - Book a free consultation at Me Clinic Melbourne - Discuss a personalised treatment plan with our practitioners - Review our before/after gallery of marionette line treatments - Understand your recovery timeline and maintenance requirements

Understanding Marionette Lines

With over 35 years of experience, Me Clinic is Melbourne's trusted destination for marionette line treatments, offering a comprehensive range of non-surgical and surgical solutions tailored to each patient's anatomy and goals. We're here to help you navigate your options with quality advice, genuine care, and complete transparency.

What are marionette lines?

Marionette lines are the vertical creases that extend downward from the corners of your mouth toward your chin. The name comes from their resemblance to the hinged jaw lines on marionette puppets. These lines can create a sad, tired, or aged appearance — even when you're feeling perfectly well.

Unlike laugh lines (nasolabial folds) that run from nose to mouth, marionette lines extend from mouth to chin. They often appear alongside jowling and can make the lower face look heavy or downturned. Many people first notice them in photographs or under harsh lighting.

A common misconception is that marionette lines are caused by frowning or having a serious expression. While facial expressions do contribute, these lines are primarily the result of age-related volume loss and deeper structural changes within the face.

Our team of Plastic Surgeons and Cosmetic Doctors sees patients with these concerns every day, and we're here to help you understand your options honestly and without pressure.

****What causes marionette lines?****

1. ****Natural ageing**** - Collagen and elastin breakdown: From your mid-20s onward, your skin produces less collagen (the protein that keeps skin firm) and elastin (which provides bounce and resilience). By your 50s, collagen production has typically decreased by 30-40%, making skin thinner and less able to resist gravity. - Muscle movement patterns: The depressor anguli oris muscles pull down the corners of your mouth with every expression. Decades of this repetitive movement create permanent creases in the overlying skin. - Fat redistribution: Facial fat pads shift downward with age. Volume loss in the mid-face and accumulation in the lower face creates the conditions that allow marionette lines to deepen over time. - Bone resorption: Your facial skeleton diminishes slightly with age, gradually reducing the underlying support structure for your skin and soft tissues.

2. ****Genetic factors**** - Hereditary predisposition: If your parents developed prominent marionette lines, you're more likely to as well. Genetics influence your bone structure, skin thickness, and the rate at which your collagen breaks down. - Skin type: People with naturally thinner skin or less inherent elasticity may develop marionette lines earlier and more noticeably than those with thicker, more resilient skin.

3. ****Lifestyle factors**** - Sun exposure: UV radiation is the leading environmental cause of premature skin ageing. It breaks down collagen and elastin fibres, accelerating lines and wrinkles over time. - Smoking: Tobacco use reduces blood flow to the skin, depletes vitamin C (essential for collagen production), and involves repetitive pursing of the lips — all of which contribute to deeper marionette lines. - Weight fluctuations: Significant weight gain stretches the skin; subsequent weight loss can leave excess skin that folds into deeper lines. Repeated cycles accelerate this process. - Sleep position: Consistently sleeping on one side can create asymmetrical compression lines over time.

****Who gets marionette lines?****

Marionette lines typically begin appearing in your 40s and become more pronounced through your 50s, 60s, and beyond. Some people notice them as early as their 30s due to genetics or lifestyle.

Both men and women develop marionette lines, though women seek treatment more frequently. Increasingly, men are also addressing them as part of their facial rejuvenation.

The lines usually become noticeable when mid-face volume starts to diminish. You might notice your face looks "heavier" in the lower third, or that people ask if you're tired when you're actually feeling fine.

****Why it matters****

Beyond aesthetics, marionette lines affect how others perceive you. People with downturned mouth corners are often read as sad, angry, or unapproachable — even when they're in a genuinely positive mood. This can have a quiet but real impact on personal and professional interactions.

For many of our patients, marionette lines create a disconnect between how they feel and what their face projects. If you feel energetic but your reflection tells a different story, it's entirely reasonable to seek solutions. Modern aesthetic medicine offers multiple effective treatments — from non-invasive options with minimal disruption to surgical solutions that deliver lasting, comprehensive results. Our role

is to help you understand which path makes sense for you.

Treatment Options Comparison

Non-Surgical Treatments

1. Injectable Treatments

Dermal Fillers

Hyaluronic acid-based fillers are injected into and around marionette lines to restore lost volume, support the skin, and smooth the creases. The filler acts like a cushion beneath the skin, literally filling the line from within.

Advanced injection techniques often involve treating not just the marionette line itself, but also the mid-face (cheeks) to restore the underlying support structure. This "lifting" approach addresses the root cause rather than simply filling the crease — a distinction that matters to our team.

- Best for: Mild to moderate marionette lines; patients wanting immediate improvement with minimal downtime - Procedure time: 20-45 minutes depending on areas treated - Downtime: Minor swelling and possible bruising for 1-3 days; most people return to normal activities immediately - Results appear: Immediately visible, with final results after 2 weeks once swelling settles - Results last: 12-18 months depending on product choice and individual metabolism - Cost range: \$800-\$1,800 per treatment (depending on the amount of filler required) - Pros: Immediate results, natural-looking when performed by experienced hands, reversible (can be dissolved if needed), minimal downtime, can be combined with other treatments - Cons: Temporary results requiring regular maintenance, potential for bruising, slight risk of lumpiness if not injected precisely, not suitable for severe lines without additional treatments

Anti-Wrinkle Injections

While anti-wrinkle injections are often associated with forehead lines, they play a useful supporting role in marionette line treatment. By relaxing the depressor anguli oris muscle (which pulls down the corners of the mouth), these injections can help prevent lines from deepening and create a subtle lift at the mouth corners.

Anti-wrinkle injections are rarely used alone for marionette lines, but work well combined with dermal fillers as part of a broader rejuvenation approach.

- Best for: Preventing marionette lines from worsening; creating a subtle mouth corner lift; combination treatment alongside fillers - Procedure time: 10-15 minutes - Downtime: None to minimal - Results appear: 3-7 days, with full effect at 2 weeks - Results last: 3-4 months - Cost range: \$300-\$450 for mouth area treatment - Pros: Quick and comfortable; no downtime; helps prevent line deepening; can improve mouth corner position - Cons: Subtle effect when used alone; requires regular maintenance; must be precisely placed to avoid asymmetry

2. Thread Lifts

Thread lifts involve inserting medical-grade dissolvable threads beneath the skin using fine needles. These threads have tiny cones or barbs that catch on tissue and provide an immediate lifting effect. Over time, the threads stimulate natural collagen production before gradually dissolving (typically over 6-12 months), whilst the lifted position and collagen benefits continue.

For marionette lines, threads are inserted at angles that lift the lower face and jawline, drawing tissue upward and outward to soften the lines naturally.

- Best for: Mild to moderate marionette lines with some sagging; patients wanting more lift than fillers alone but who aren't ready for surgery - Procedure time: 45-60 minutes - Downtime: Mild swelling and tenderness for 3-5 days; occasional visible dimpling for 1-2 weeks - Results appear: Immediate mechanical lift, with continued improvement as collagen builds over 2-3 months - Results last: 12-18 months - Cost range: \$2,500-\$4,500 depending on the number of threads required - Pros: Immediate lifting effect, stimulates your body's natural collagen, less invasive than surgery, performed under local anaesthetic - Cons: Can be uncomfortable during healing; visible thread ends are possible (though rare); not suitable for severe sagging; temporary results

****3. Energy-Based Treatments****

****Ultherapy (Ultrasound Skin Tightening)****

Ultherapy uses focused ultrasound energy to heat the deep layers of skin — the same layers targeted during a facelift — without damaging the surface. This controlled heating triggers your body's natural healing response, stimulating new collagen and elastin production over the following months.

For marionette lines, Ultherapy is applied to the lower face and jawline to create a gradual tightening and lifting effect.

- Best for: Early marionette lines with mild skin laxity; maintenance after filler treatments; patients who prefer gradual, natural-looking improvement - Treatment sessions: Usually 1 session, occasionally 2 for optimal results - Downtime: None to minimal; some redness immediately after treatment - Results appear: Gradual improvement over 2-3 months as new collagen forms - Results last: 1-2 years, sometimes longer - Cost range: \$2,500-\$4,000 for lower face treatment - Pros: Non-invasive, stimulates your body's natural collagen, no needles, no downtime, natural-looking results - Cons: Can be uncomfortable during treatment; results are gradual rather than immediate; best suited to mild concerns

****Radiofrequency Skin Tightening****

Radiofrequency (RF) treatments use controlled heat to stimulate collagen and tighten skin. Some devices combine RF with microneedling for enhanced penetration and results.

- Best for: Skin tightening around marionette lines; combination treatment with fillers - Treatment sessions: 1-3 sessions depending on severity - Downtime: 1-3 days of mild redness and swelling - Results appear: Gradual over 3-6 months - Results last: 1-2 years - Cost range: \$800-\$2,500 per session - Pros: Tightens skin without surgery; minimal downtime; can treat other areas simultaneously - Cons: Multiple sessions often needed; results are subtle to moderate; not effective for severe lines

****4. Skin Resurfacing Treatments****

****Laser Resurfacing****

Ablative lasers remove the outer layer of skin and heat the underlying layers to stimulate collagen production. This can meaningfully improve skin texture and reduce more superficial marionette lines.

- Best for: Fine lines and skin texture concerns around marionette lines; not effective as a standalone treatment for deep creases - Treatment sessions: 1-2 sessions - Downtime: 7-14 days depending on intensity - Results last: Several years with diligent sun protection - Cost range: \$1,500-\$4,000 per treatment - Pros: Improves overall skin quality; long-lasting texture improvement - Cons: Significant downtime; won't address underlying volume loss; requires strict sun protection

****Chemical Peels****

Medical-grade chemical solutions remove damaged outer layers of skin, revealing fresher skin beneath whilst stimulating collagen production in the deeper layers.

- Best for: Surface texture concerns around marionette lines; very early or superficial lines - Depth options: Light, medium, or deep (deeper peels offer more meaningful results but require more recovery time) - Downtime: 3-14 days depending on depth - Cost range: \$300-\$1,500 per treatment - Pros: Improves overall skin quality; more accessible cost - Cons: Limited effect on deep marionette lines; requires multiple treatments; significant downtime for deeper peels

Surgical Treatments

Facelift (Rhytidectomy)

A facelift surgically repositions the underlying muscles and tissues of the face, removes excess skin, and re-drapes the remaining skin for a smoother, more youthful appearance. For marionette lines, a lower facelift or full facelift provides the most comprehensive and lasting correction available.

During the procedure, your surgeon makes incisions (typically hidden in the hairline and around the ears), lifts and repositions the SMAS layer (the muscular layer beneath the skin), removes excess skin, and closes the incisions carefully to minimise scarring.

Modern facelift techniques at Me Clinic focus on natural-looking results by: - Preserving facial volume rather than simply pulling skin tight - Repositioning tissues back to their natural youthful position - Creating smooth transitions without telltale signs of surgery - Addressing the neck simultaneously for balanced, harmonious results

Our FRACS-qualified plastic surgeons bring decades of experience and a genuine commitment to your wellbeing to every procedure.

Best for: Moderate to severe marionette lines with significant jowling and lower face sagging; patients seeking comprehensive, long-lasting correction; those who have explored non-surgical options and are ready for a more definitive solution

- Procedure time: 3-5 hours depending on extent - Anaesthesia: General anaesthesia or deep sedation - Hospital stay: Day surgery or overnight depending on extent - Recovery time: 2 weeks for social recovery; 4-6 weeks before resuming strenuous activities; 3-6 months for final results - Results appear: Initial improvement visible once swelling reduces (2-4 weeks); final results at 6-12 months - Results last: 7-15 years, though natural ageing continues - Cost range: \$15,000-\$25,000 depending on extent and surgeon - Pros: Dramatic, long-lasting improvement; addresses all contributing factors (volume, skin laxity, muscle position); can be combined with other procedures - Cons: Invasive surgery with inherent risks; significant recovery period; higher upfront cost; permanent scars (though well-hidden); requires a highly experienced surgeon

We want to be honest about what surgery involves — because well-informed patients have better experiences and better outcomes.

Mini Facelift / Short-Scar Facelift

A less extensive option than a full facelift, focusing on the lower face and jawline with shorter incisions and less involved tissue manipulation.

- Best for: Moderate marionette lines and jowling without significant neck laxity - Procedure time: 2-3 hours - Recovery: 10-14 days social recovery - Results last: 5-8 years - Cost range: \$12,000-\$18,000 - Pros: Less invasive than a full facelift; shorter recovery; lower cost - Cons: Less comprehensive than a full facelift; not suited to more advanced facial ageing

Choosing the Right Treatment

Navigating your treatment options can feel overwhelming. Our team is here to guide you through this process with patience and clarity — helping you make a decision that feels right for you, in your own time.

****Consider non-surgical treatments if:****

- You have mild to moderate marionette lines without severe sagging
- You prefer minimal to no downtime and want to return to work quickly
- You'd like to explore treatments gradually and see how you respond
- You're not yet ready for surgical intervention
- Budget is a consideration and you prefer spreading the cost over time
- You value reversible options that can be adjusted at future appointments
- You're focused on prevention or early intervention in your 30s-40s

****Consider surgical treatment if:****

- You have severe marionette lines with significant jowling and skin laxity
- You're seeking results that last 7-15 years
- Non-surgical options haven't achieved the improvement you were hoping for
- You can accommodate 2-4 weeks of recovery time
- You're ready to invest in a comprehensive, longer-term solution
- You want to address multiple lower-face ageing concerns simultaneously (jowls, neck, marionette lines)
- You're seeking meaningful, transformative improvement rather than subtle enhancement

****Combination approach:****

Many patients at Me Clinic achieve their most satisfying results by combining treatments strategically. This addresses marionette lines from multiple angles whilst maintaining natural-looking, harmonious outcomes. Common combinations include:

- Fillers + anti-wrinkle injections: Restore lost volume whilst relaxing the muscles that pull down the mouth corners. This creates immediate improvement and helps prevent future deepening of the lines.
- Thread lift + fillers: Threads provide mechanical lift and skin tightening, whilst fillers restore lost volume in the marionette lines themselves. Together, they offer more comprehensive improvement than either treatment alone.
- Facelift + fillers: Surgical correction provides the foundational lift and skin tightening, whilst strategic filler placement adds volume to specific areas for optimal contour and smoothness.
- Ultherapy + fillers: Ultherapy tightens the skin from within, whilst fillers provide immediate volume. This combination offers both instant improvement and continued enhancement as collagen builds over the following months.

Your Me Clinic surgeon or cosmetic physician will assess your individual anatomy, skin quality, and aesthetic goals during your consultation — recommending the most effective approach for your situation.

What to Expect at Me Clinic

****1. Initial Consultation (Free)****

Your journey with us begins with a comprehensive, no-obligation consultation at our Malvern East clinic. During this time:

- Comprehensive facial assessment: Your practitioner examines your marionette lines, facial structure, skin quality, and how different expressions affect your appearance. This evaluation ensures treatment recommendations address the root causes, not just the surface symptoms.

- Discussion of your concerns and goals: We take the time to listen to what bothers you about your marionette lines and what you hope to achieve. Understanding your expectations allows us to design a treatment plan that genuinely aligns with your vision.
- Medical history review: Your complete medical history, current medications, allergies, and previous cosmetic treatments are reviewed to ensure your safety and identify any contraindications.
- Treatment options explained: Your practitioner presents all suitable options for your specific case, explaining clearly how each treatment works, what results you can realistically expect, and how the approaches compare.
- Realistic expectations set: Honesty is central to our Responsible Cosmetic Medicine™ philosophy. We will always tell you what's achievable and what isn't — so you feel confident and informed before making any decisions.
- Transparent pricing provided: You'll receive clear pricing for all recommended treatments, with no hidden fees. If multiple options suit your situation, we'll explain the cost differences so you can make a genuinely informed choice.
- Before/after gallery review: You'll have the opportunity to see real results from Me Clinic patients with similar concerns, giving you a meaningful visual reference for potential outcomes.

****2. Treatment Planning****

Once you decide to proceed, we'll work with you to create a plan that feels right:

- Customised treatment plan: Your specific treatment protocol is mapped out, including injection sites, product choices, or surgical technique details tailored to you.
- Timeline and sessions explained: You'll understand exactly how many appointments you'll need, the timing between sessions, and when you can realistically expect to see results.
- Pre-treatment instructions: Clear guidance on what to do (and avoid) before your treatment to optimise results and minimise any risk of complications. This may include avoiding blood-thinning medications, alcohol, or certain supplements.
- Cost breakdown provided: A detailed breakdown of pricing for your specific treatment plan, including any touch-up sessions that may be needed.
- Questions answered: Your practitioner will ensure you feel completely at ease and fully understand every aspect of your treatment before anything proceeds.

****3. The Me Clinic Difference****

****Responsible Cosmetic Medicine™****

Our approach to marionette line treatment reflects our broader philosophy — built on over 35 years of experience, genuine ethical commitment, and a belief that patient wellbeing always comes first:

- Evidence-based treatments only: We only offer treatments with a proven foundation of safety and efficacy. If the medical literature doesn't support a treatment, we won't offer it.
- Ethical patient selection: Not everyone is the right candidate for every treatment, and we will always tell you honestly if something isn't right for you — even if it means you choose not to proceed with us.
- Natural-looking results: Our goal is always for you to look like a refreshed, well-rested version of yourself — not like someone who has "had work done." We are committed to avoiding the overfilled or overdone appearance that gives cosmetic treatments a poor reputation.

- Conservative approach first: We typically recommend beginning with less invasive options and progressing to more involved treatments only when genuinely needed. This minimises risk and allows you to adjust gradually to positive changes.

- Comprehensive aftercare: Your relationship with Me Clinic doesn't end when you leave the treatment room. We provide thorough aftercare guidance and remain available for any questions or concerns throughout your recovery.

****Experienced Practitioners****

Your marionette line treatment will be performed by highly qualified professionals committed to giving patients the best possible care:

- FRACS-qualified plastic surgeons: Our surgical team holds Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS) qualifications in plastic and reconstructive surgery — the highest standard of surgical qualification in Australia.

- Specialist cosmetic physicians: Our non-surgical practitioners are medical doctors with specialised training in cosmetic medicine and extensive experience in facial injectable treatments.

- Registered nurses: Injectable treatments are also performed by registered nurses working under medical supervision, with considerable expertise in aesthetic medicine.

- 25,000+ surgical procedures performed: Our surgical team has collectively completed over 25,000 procedures.

- 60,000+ non-surgical treatments delivered: We've performed more than 60,000 non-surgical treatments, giving our team exceptional skill in injectable techniques and patient care.

****Transparent Pricing****

At Me Clinic, you won't be surprised by unexpected costs. Financial transparency is a fundamental part of the trust we build with every patient:

- Published price lists: Our pricing is publicly available, giving you complete clarity well before your consultation.

- No hidden fees: The price quoted includes everything needed for your treatment.

- Payment plans available: We offer flexible payment options through approved financing partners.

- Medicare rebates explained: Whilst most cosmetic treatments aren't covered by Medicare, some surgical procedures may qualify for partial rebates where there is a functional component. We'll explain clearly what may or may not apply to your situation.

Frequently Asked Questions

****What are marionette lines?****

Vertical creases extending from mouth corners toward the chin.

****Are marionette lines the same as laugh lines?****

No, they are different facial creases. Laugh lines run from nose to mouth; marionette lines run from the mouth corners down toward the chin.

****Why are they called marionette lines?****

They resemble the hinged jaw lines on marionette puppets.

****What causes marionette lines?****

Age-related volume loss and structural facial changes are the primary cause — not frowning, as many people assume. Collagen production starts declining from your mid-20s onward, typically decreasing by 30-40% by your 50s. The depressor anguli oris muscle also deepens the lines over time, as does facial bone resorption, which gradually reduces the support structure beneath your skin.

****Does sun exposure or smoking make marionette lines worse?****

Yes to both. UV radiation breaks down collagen and elastin, whilst smoking reduces blood flow to the skin and depletes collagen. Both accelerate the process considerably.

****When do marionette lines typically first appear?****

Most people notice them in their 40s, though genetics or lifestyle factors can bring them on in your 30s. Thinner skin tends to show lines earlier and more noticeably.

****Can marionette lines affect how others perceive you?****

Yes — they can make you appear sad or unapproachable even when you're not. This can have a real impact on personal and professional interactions.

****What non-surgical treatments are available?****

Dermal fillers, anti-wrinkle injections, thread lifts, Ultherapy, radiofrequency skin tightening, laser resurfacing, and chemical peels.

****What surgical treatments are available?****

Facelift (lower face lift or full facelift) and mini facelift.

****How do dermal fillers work for marionette lines?****

Hyaluronic acid filler is injected into and around the lines to restore volume and smooth the creases. A 20-45 minute appointment, with results visible immediately and final results at 2 weeks. Fillers last 12-18 months and cost \$800-\$1,800 per treatment. They're reversible — hyaluronic acid fillers can be dissolved if needed. Expect minor swelling or bruising for 1-3 days.

****How do anti-wrinkle injections help?****

By relaxing the muscle that pulls down the mouth corners. They're rarely used alone — most effective combined with fillers. Results appear in 3-7 days, last 3-4 months, and cost \$300-\$450 for the mouth area. A 10-15 minute appointment with no downtime.

****How do thread lifts work?****

Dissolvable threads are inserted beneath the skin to lift tissue and stimulate collagen production. Results appear immediately and continue improving over 2-3 months as collagen builds. Threads last 12-18 months and cost \$2,500-\$4,500. Expect 3-5 days of mild swelling and tenderness.

****What is Ultherapy?****

A non-invasive focused ultrasound treatment that stimulates collagen production in the deep layers of skin — without damaging the surface. Results appear gradually over 2-3 months and last 1-2 years, sometimes longer. Cost is \$2,500-\$4,000 for lower face treatment, with no downtime.

****What does laser resurfacing cost and involve?****

\$1,500-\$4,000 per treatment, with 7-14 days of downtime depending on intensity. Best for surface texture concerns rather than deep creases.

****What does a facelift involve?****

A 3-5 hour procedure under general anaesthesia or deep sedation. Social recovery takes approximately 2 weeks; strenuous activities can resume after 4-6 weeks; final results are visible at 6-12 months. Results last 7-15 years. Cost ranges from \$15,000-\$25,000.

****What does a mini facelift cost?****

\$12,000-\$18,000, with 10-14 days of social recovery and results lasting 5-8 years. Less comprehensive than a full facelift, but suited to moderate marionette lines without significant neck laxity.

****Is the Me Clinic initial consultation free?****

Yes, with no obligation to proceed. Me Clinic is located at 4 Burke Road, Malvern East VIC 3145.

****How much does marionette line treatment cost in Melbourne?****

- Dermal fillers: \$800-\$1,800 per treatment - Anti-wrinkle injections: \$300-\$450 for targeted mouth corner treatment - Thread lifts: \$2,500-\$4,500 - Ultherapy: \$2,500-\$4,000 for lower face treatment - Laser resurfacing: \$1,500-\$4,000 per treatment - Facelift: \$15,000-\$25,000 - Mini facelift: \$12,000-\$18,000

Detailed pricing is provided during your free consultation with no hidden fees.

****How long do results last?****

- Dermal fillers: 12-18 months - Anti-wrinkle injections: 3-4 months - Thread lifts: 12-18 months for the mechanical lift; collagen benefits continue beyond this - Ultherapy: 1-2 years, with some patients experiencing benefits for up to 3 years - Laser treatments: Several years with diligent sun protection - Facelift: 7-15 years, though natural ageing continues

Individual results vary based on age, skin quality, lifestyle, and genetics.

****What's the downtime for each treatment?****

- Dermal fillers: Most people return to normal activities immediately; minor swelling or bruising for 1-3 days. Avoid strenuous exercise for 24 hours. - Anti-wrinkle injections: No downtime. Avoid lying down for 4 hours after treatment. - Thread lifts: 3-5 days of mild swelling and tenderness; avoid strenuous activities for 2 weeks. - Ultherapy: No downtime, though some patients experience mild redness immediately after. - Laser resurfacing: 7-14 days depending on treatment intensity. - Facelift: 2 weeks for social recovery; 4-6 weeks before resuming strenuous exercise; 3-6 months for final results.

****Will my treatment look natural?****

Natural-looking results are the cornerstone of Me Clinic's Responsible Cosmetic Medicine™ approach. Our practitioners achieve this through conservative product amounts, thoughtful injection placement that works with your natural facial anatomy, treating the underlying cause (volume loss in the cheeks) rather than simply filling the line itself, and listening carefully to your goals. The aim is always for you to look like a refreshed, well-rested version of yourself.

****Am I too young or too old for marionette line treatment?****

There's no universal age limit. What matters is your skin condition and elasticity, overall health, realistic expectations, and personal motivation — not your age on paper.

- Patients in their 30s-40s may benefit from preventative anti-wrinkle injections or small amounts of filler to address early volume loss. - Patients in their 40s-50s are often good candidates for combination treatments (fillers + anti-wrinkle injections or thread lifts). - Patients in their 60s+ may achieve their best results with surgical options, though non-surgical treatments can still provide meaningful improvement.

****Does Medicare cover marionette line treatments?****

Most cosmetic treatments are not covered by Medicare or private health insurance, as they're considered aesthetic rather than medically necessary. Rare exceptions include facelifts performed as part of post-cancer reconstruction or treatment for functional issues from severe facial asymmetry. We'll explain coverage clearly during your consultation.

****What are the risks and side effects?****

Injectable treatments (fillers and anti-wrinkle injections): Temporary bruising and swelling (common); tenderness at injection sites for 1-3 days; asymmetry requiring a touch-up; lumpiness if filler isn't evenly distributed (rare with experienced injectors); vascular occlusion (extremely rare but serious; immediately treated if recognised); allergic reaction (very rare with hyaluronic acid fillers).

Thread lifts: Visible or palpable threads under the skin (usually temporary); dimpling at insertion points (typically resolves within 2 weeks); asymmetry requiring adjustment; thread migration or extrusion (rare); infection (rare).

Energy-based treatments (Ultherapy, lasers): Redness and swelling (temporary); temporary numbness or altered sensation; burns (rare with proper technique); hyperpigmentation or hypopigmentation (more common in darker skin tones).

Surgical facelift: Scarring (typically well-hidden but permanent); infection; haematoma (blood collection requiring drainage); nerve damage causing temporary or permanent numbness, weakness, or asymmetry (rare); anaesthesia risks; skin loss (rare); need for revision surgery.

Your practitioner will discuss all risks relevant to your chosen treatment during your consultation.

****Can I see before-and-after photos?****

Yes. During your consultation at Me Clinic, we'll share before-and-after photographs specifically relevant to marionette line treatment — including cases with similar severity and facial characteristics to your own, across a range of age groups and skin types. All photographs are of real Me Clinic patients who have consented to their use.

****How do I prepare for treatment?****

For injectable treatments: Avoid blood-thinning medications and supplements for 7 days prior (if medically safe) — aspirin, ibuprofen, fish oil, vitamin E, ginkgo biloba. Avoid alcohol for 24 hours before treatment. Arrive with a clean face and have a light meal beforehand. Consider scheduling when you have no major events for 1-2 weeks, in case of bruising.

For energy-based treatments: Avoid sun exposure for 2 weeks prior. Discontinue retinoids and exfoliating products as directed. Arrive with clean, product-free skin.

For surgical treatments: Get medical clearance if you're over 50 or have health conditions. Stop smoking at least 4 weeks before and after surgery. Arrange for someone to drive you home and stay with you on the first night. Fill prescriptions in advance. Prepare your home for recovery (soft foods, cold compresses). Avoid all blood-thinning substances for 2 weeks prior.

****When will I see results?****

- Dermal fillers: Immediately visible; final results after 2 weeks once swelling settles - Anti-wrinkle injections: Results begin in 3-7 days, full effect at 2 weeks - Thread lifts: Immediate mechanical lift, with continued improvement over 2-3 months - Ultherapy: Gradual improvement over 2-6 months; many patients notice ongoing enhancement for up to a year - Laser treatments: Initial improvement within 2 weeks, continued enhancement over 3-6 months - Facelift: Initial results visible once major swelling reduces (2-4 weeks); final results at 6-12 months

Patience matters — particularly with treatments that work by stimulating your body's own collagen production rather than providing instant volume.

****What's the difference between fillers and a facelift for marionette lines?****

Fillers work best when marionette lines are mild to moderate, skin still has reasonable elasticity, there's minimal jowling, and you prefer a gradual, reversible approach with minimal downtime. They provide immediate softening of the lines and a subtle lift at the mouth corners. Their limitation is that they can't remove excess skin or significantly reposition sagging tissues — and overfilling creates an unnatural, heavy appearance, which is why our conservative approach matters.

A facelift makes more sense when marionette lines are severe with deep folds, significant skin laxity and jowling are present, previous non-surgical treatments haven't achieved your hoped-for improvement, and you want comprehensive correction that lasts 7-15 years. It involves a recovery period, a higher upfront cost, and permanent changes — which is why careful surgeon selection and thorough pre-operative consultation are so important.

Many patients find that combining both — facelift for structural correction with thoughtful filler use for volume — provides the most natural and comprehensive results.

****How often do I need to repeat treatments?****

- Dermal fillers: Every 12-18 months. Some patients prefer a small proactive touch-up every 12 months rather than waiting for fillers to fully dissolve. - Anti-wrinkle injections: Every 3-4 months for optimal results. - Thread lifts: Every 12-24 months to maintain the lifted appearance. - Ultherapy: Every 1-2 years, or as needed based on your skin's response. - Laser treatments: Varies; may be repeated annually or every few years depending on the specific laser used. - Facelift: Doesn't require repetition in the traditional sense. Many patients remain satisfied with their results for 10-15 years. Some choose complementary touch-up procedures (a mini-lift or injectable treatments) as they age further.

****Can marionette line treatments be combined with other procedures?****

Yes — combination treatments often provide the most comprehensive and naturally harmonious results.

Non-surgical combinations: Marionette line fillers + nasolabial fold fillers + cheek fillers for balanced mid-to-lower face rejuvenation; fillers + anti-wrinkle injections in the forehead and around the eyes for a full-face refresh; thread lift + fillers for both mechanical lift and volume restoration; Ultherapy + fillers for skin tightening combined with immediate volume enhancement.

Surgical combinations: Facelift + neck lift for comprehensive lower face and neck rejuvenation; facelift + eyelid surgery (blepharoplasty) for full facial rejuvenation; facelift + fat grafting to restore volume naturally and lastingly.

Maintenance combinations: Post-facelift filler touch-ups to maintain or gently enhance surgical results as natural ageing continues.

During your consultation, your Me Clinic practitioner will assess your entire face and recommend a treatment plan that addresses all your concerns in a balanced, personalised way.

Real Patient Results

At Me Clinic, we've helped thousands of patients address marionette lines using both non-surgical and surgical approaches. Whilst individual results vary based on age, skin quality, treatment choice, and practitioner expertise, our before-and-after gallery reflects the range of natural outcomes achievable through our evidence-based treatment protocols.

During your consultation, your practitioner will share cases specifically relevant to your situation — similar age, skin type, and severity of marionette lines — and will discuss realistic expectations tailored to your individual anatomy and goals.

Book Your Free Consultation

If you're ready to explore your marionette line treatment options, we're here to help — with no pressure, no obligation, and complete transparency throughout.

****Three ways to book:****

1. Call: (03) 8823 5859 (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm)
2. Online: Visit meclinic.com.au/book-consultation
3. Email: info@meclinic.com.au

****What to bring to your consultation:****

- A list of your current medications and supplements - Relevant medical history (previous cosmetic treatments, allergies, medical conditions) - Any questions you'd like to ask your practitioner - Photos showing your marionette lines from different angles (optional, but often helpful)

****Your free consultation includes:****

- Comprehensive facial assessment by an experienced practitioner - Personalised treatment recommendations based on your anatomy and goals - Transparent pricing with a detailed cost breakdown — no surprises - Before-and-after gallery review of relevant, comparable cases - Honest, realistic expectation setting — always with your wellbeing at the centre - No obligation to proceed — this appointment is about education and making sure you feel fully supported

****Me Clinic Location:****

Me Clinic 4 Burke Road, Malvern East VIC 3145 Convenient on-site parking available Easily accessible from across Melbourne

We look forward to welcoming you and helping you achieve your aesthetic goals through evidence-based treatments, experienced hands, and our commitment to Responsible Cosmetic Medicine™.

> ****Disclaimer:**** All facts and statements are general information, not professional advice. Consult relevant experts for specific guidance.

****Clinic-Verifiable Facts:**** - Clinic address: 4 Burke Road, Malvern East VIC 3145 - Years of experience: Over 35 years - Surgical procedures performed: Over 25,000 - Non-surgical treatments performed: Over 60,000 - Surgeon qualification: FRACS (Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons) in plastic and reconstructive surgery - Initial consultation fee: No charge - Pricing published publicly: Yes, per clinic policy - Contact phone: (03) 8823 5859 - Website booking: meclinic.com.au/book-consultation - Contact email: info@meclinic.com.au