

tested

# YOU TRIED IT



## Advanta Facial Implant for lips

**Name:** Kristine Kruitz  
**Job:** Special events planner

**BACKGROUND STORY:** I have always longed for the look of pouty, plump lips. For the past few years I have tried injectable fillers, but the cost can add up: each syringe costs \$400 to \$550, and sometimes two syringes are used. The results have lasted four months. So I started to research the best permanent filler, injectable or implant available. I went to see Dr. Michael Kreidstein, who had done some of my previous filler injections. He suggested the Advanta implant. After learning more, I booked a date with him for the surgery.

**THE TECHNICAL STUFF:** The Advanta Facial Implant (ePTFE) is a soft, thin strip that feels like Play-Doh or Silly Putty. It comes in a wide variety of sizes and can be round or oval. It is implanted beneath the fleshy part of the lip. Because of its composition, Advanta accepts your own collagen structure, resulting in a more natural tissue-healing response. I chose the five-millimetre round implant to be inserted into my top and bottom lips. The implant was inserted at the corners of my mouth and pulled across, then sutured in at all four corners of the lips and in the middle of the top lip. The sutures were inside the mouth and removed 10 days post-op.

**APPLICATION TIME:** I was anxious, but I knew I was in good hands with Dr. Kreidstein. We discussed the procedure one more time, and then I underwent a general anesthetic. The surgery took about three hours. I woke up feeling my lips; they were tender and the pain was an intense stinging. In the mirror, my lips looked like they had been stung by a bee, but I am used to swelling from injectables, so I wasn't upset. As the day progressed, my lips swelled more and more. I ate soup and Jell-O, since chewing or opening my mouth too wide was difficult. I took the antibiotics and put Polysporin on my lips to prevent infection.



BEFORE



AFTER


**RESULTS:** By Day 2 post-op, I could eat solid food. By the third day, the swelling had decreased significantly. By Day 8, I was pleased with the results. My lips still have the same natural shape as pre-surgery, but they're fuller and don't have that "duck" look that injectables can sometimes cause.

**THE TEST:** Two weeks after surgery, you couldn't tell I'd had my lips augmented because they looked so natural. It's now seven months since the surgery, and I haven't had any problems, nor can I feel the implant.

**RISKS:** With any solid permanent implant there's a risk of infection and hematomas. Complications include scar tissue or patient dissatisfaction. It's so important that you do research to find a doctor who is highly skilled at performing this type of lip augmentation. Surgery can be done under local or general anesthetic, depending on the patient and if other procedures are being performed at the same time.

**COST:** \$2,500 (top and bottom lip).

**EXPIRATION DATE:** Advanta Facial Implants are permanent but reversible – they can be removed at any time.

**GET THE GOODS:** Dr. Michael Kreidstein, 416-391-4452, drkreedstein.com. 

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PHOTOS BEFORE AND AFTER: COURTESY DR. MICHAEL KREIDSTEIN

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