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## New lip treatment has given me something to smile about

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linda moore



AS Linda Moore applies lipstick and looks at her reflection in the mirror - she finally has something to smile about.

Previously, Linda's lips had shrunk due to an autoimmune disease, which meant for four years she physically couldn't smile properly.

But now she's the first in Scotland to have new lip implants, which have given her back her smile - and also given her a reason to be happy.

Sales rep Linda, 53, from Greenock, was diagnosed around four years ago with systemic sclerosis, a painful condition, which led to her lips shrinking and her skin tightening.

She had tried everything to improve her lips, from filler injections to having fat from her stomach transferred to her mouth - but none of the treatments lasted longer than a few weeks.

Systemic sclerosis or scleroderma results in an abnormal growth of connective tissue, which causes damage to the skin, the stomach and other internal organs.

But now Linda is over the moon after having PermaLip implants at La Belle Forme clinic in Glasgow, which have been introduced to Scotland by plastic surgeon Taimur Shoab.

Linda said: "This has not only given me a reason to smile, it's actually made it physically easier for me to smile.

"I feel like I've got my life back - I'm just so grateful.

"Before I became ill I was more outgoing but I became so self-conscious because of the way my lips looked."

Linda was shocked when she first discovered she had systemic sclerosis.

"I was getting really breathless and my skin had changed, it was getting really tight and brown-looking.

"It was a big shock when I was told what was wrong.

"I was told the condition could affect my lungs, heart, kidneys and oesophagus.

"It also changed my appearance. My face became very tight and my mouth became really small.

"It was difficult to eat because my mouth was so tight.

"I was self-conscious about eating because food would fall out of my mouth."

She added: "I used to look in the mirror every day and I didn't like what I saw.

"It's not that I'm vain - I just wanted my face to look normal."

Although Linda, who is mum to Paul, 32, Kendal, 26, and Ryan, 25, still has to live with the progressive condition, she says the new lip implants make it much more bearable.

"The implants have made a difference to how I look and I can't believe when I look at my face that I've got lips. I can now wear lipstick.

"But the biggest difference is finally being able to smile. I don't look like a patient with this now and what I had this illness any more and that's what I hated the most.

"I've got total feeling back in my mouth and I'm really pleased with it.

"I've been kissing the back of my hand and now it feels normal again. The treatment works."

PermaLip implants have taken America and Europe by storm, where people want to enhance thin or ageing lips.

The implants are made of soft, supple silicon, and they are injected into the upper and lower lips via a small insertion at the corner of the mouth.

They can be inserted in around 20 minutes and are easy to remove, unlike any other permanent lip implants, where skin tissue grows into and around the implant.

Mr Shoaib said: "This is a major breakthrough in the area of lip implantation, as in the past problems could arise if people wanted them removed."

PermaLip implants are available at La Belle Forme clinics in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Tel: 0141 552 0828 or log on to [www.labelleforme.co.uk](http://www.labelleforme.co.uk) for more information.

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