

BOTOX

Botulinum Toxin (Botox[®] Cosmetic)



What Is Botox?

Botox is the brand name of botulinum toxin, a protein produced by the *Clostridium botulinum* bacterium. In 2002, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Botox for injection directly into the facial muscles of people ages 18 to 65 to reduce temporarily the frown lines between the brows. Today, some physicians also use Botox to smooth out wrinkles next to the eyes (“crow’s feet”) and along the forehead.

How Does It Work?

The paralyzing effect of Botox reduces wrinkles caused by movement of certain muscles in the area being treated. The wrinkle-smoothing results can be seen within a few days of treatment and usually last three to six months.

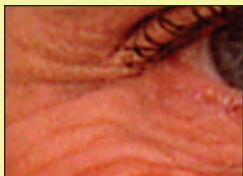
Will My Face Look Natural?

The appearance of the face is not radically changed by a Botox treatment. Although Botox paralyzes the muscles that cause the wrinkles, the treatment generally does not otherwise affect facial expression.

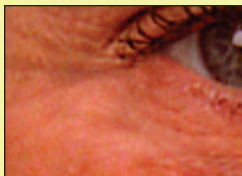
What’s Involved?

A Botox treatment is a nonsurgical procedure administered by medical doctors, such as ophthalmologists. In fact, an ophthalmologist is a good choice because he or she is very familiar with the anatomy and function of the areas surrounding the eyes.

The procedure takes about 10 minutes and involves a few tiny, very low-dose injections directly into the muscles of the area being treated. Discomfort usually is minimal and brief. Generally, there is no recovery time associated with the procedure.



before



after

Are There Side Effects?

The most common side effects are headache, respiratory infection, flu-like feeling, temporary eyelid droop or nausea. Less common side effects include facial pain, redness around the injection sites or weakness of the adjacent muscles. Rare, but serious, complications include drooping brows or lids, double vision, inability to close eyelids, injection site infection or allergic reaction.

Does Insurance Cover Treatments?

Because Botox treatments are considered cosmetic, they usually are not covered by medical insurance. Therefore, it’s important to discuss the cost with your provider before deciding to undergo the treatment.

Who Should Not Have Botox Treatments?

People with the following conditions are not good candidates for Botox treatments:

- existing weakness in the targeted muscles
- ptosis (drooping eyelids)
- deep facial scars
- very thick facial skin
- neuromuscular disorders
- cervical dystonia (a condition involving involuntary movement of the neck muscles)
- pregnancy or nursing
- noticeable facial asymmetry
- skin disorders around the planned injection sites
- known hypersensitivity to any ingredient in the Botox formulation

Want To Learn More?

Here are two websites that provide information about Botox:

- www.fda.gov (*key search words: botulinum toxin treatment*)
- www.botoxcosmetic.com



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