



Botox



Botox, or Botulinum toxin, is a natural purified protein that can be used to improve glabellar frown lines, crow's feet, and horizontal forehead lines, which are due to the overactivity of muscles in these areas. Botox when injected, reversibly weakens these muscles, causing the lines to diminish after treatment, as the muscles no longer function to produce them.

Botox has been used safely for more than ten years in the treatment of medical conditions such as facial muscle spasms in both adults and children.

Treatment involves a series of tiny injections into the muscle directly beneath the frown line. The injection causes about 30 seconds of stinging, and occasionally a slight swelling or bruising may occur.

The patient should move the muscles in the injected area for 5-10 minutes after the injection, and must remain upright for four hours following treatment, and resist touching or massaging the treated area. This could spread the Botox into unwanted areas. The effects will be noticeable 4-7 days later and lasts for between 3-6 months. The results last longer with further successive treatments.

Complications are uncommon but can occur. The most common complication is partial eyelid droop (occurring in about 2% of injections), and eyebrow droop or asymmetry. This may last up to three weeks, after which it resolves itself.

Allergies are possible but not yet documented. The results are usually dramatic but no guarantees can be made. Botox is not to be used in pregnant or lactating women.

Note: In Australia photoaging, or damage by the sun, is also a major cause of facial lines and wrinkles. Botox will not completely correct deep lines, and Botox may need to be given in combination with other treatments, such as laser resurfacing or collagen, to obtain maximal improvement. Any treatment should be in combination with a good skin care program.