



## Information About Botox

Botox is a form of purified protein which has been used worldwide for over 20 years. Over time, it was discovered that Botox in small amounts have an excellent effect on facial expression. It is now used for fine lines and wrinkles. In addition, it is used safely to treat hyperhidrosis (excessive sweating) in the armpits.

The medication works by blocking a chemical release between the peripheral nerves and the affected muscles. When the muscles can no longer contract, the skin overlying the muscle becomes flat and lines in the face diminish.

Many women are concerned that they will look “frozen” after a treatment. That should never happen. The goal is to produce a look that is well-rested and relaxed. Many people look 5 years younger after treatment. Other women worry about side-effects. They are generally mild, if they happen at all. Most patients can walk out of the office and return to work within 20 minutes, without anyone noticing a difference. The trick is to find a practitioner whom you can feel comfortable with – one who listens to the objective that YOU wish to achieve. He or she should ideally have several years of experience with the product and be willing to provide a thorough initial consultation before treatment is undertaken.

Botox is safe in experienced hands. Side effects are rare. Some people experience mild bruising, headache and transient numbness. On rare occasions (2%), a drooping of the eyelid can occur. Fortunately, even if some drooping occurs, it is not permanent as the medication wears off in 4-6 months. When the lower face is injected, occasionally drooping of the mouth or change in speech can occur.

Because the effect is not permanent, treatments may need to be repeated at 4-6 month intervals to assure a long-lasting result. With repeated treatments over time, the effects last longer and longer. Many lines that were starting to become permanent will completely disappear. Others will soften.

Most people see results with treatment within 3-5 days. Ninety percent (90%) of patients injected will have moderate to excellent results, 5% will have fair results, and *less than* 5% will have *no* response at all to injections. Sometimes, adjustments to the dose need to be made in order to achieve optimal results.

If someone has a neuromuscular disorder, such as myasthenia gravis or multiple sclerosis, or any other serious medical condition, they may not be a good candidate for neuromuscular therapy. Likewise, neuromodulators cannot be used on a woman when she is pregnant or breastfeeding.