

How are wrinkles formed?

Every time you smile, laugh or frown, you set off a series of contractions in the underlying muscles of your face. Deep wrinkles such as crows feet and frown lines are caused by overactive muscle movement which gradually wear the collagen [supporting structure in the skin] away, causing the skin to sink and wrinkles to appear. To make matters worse, the more you use these muscles, the deeper these wrinkles and lines are likely to be. Botox® can help delay formation of wrinkles due to muscle activity. Wrinkles are also formed as a result of sun damage and natural ageing process.

What is Botulinum Toxin (Botox®)?

It is a complex protein produced by the anaerobic bacterium Clostridium botulinum. Discovered in 1895, botulinum toxin type A was isolated in purified form in the 1920s. Botox®, which has been used to treat a variety of medical conditions for nearly 15 years, is also FDA-approved as BOTOX® Cosmetic.

Is Botox® Safe?

Botulinum toxin has been used to treat many medical conditions associated with muscle spasm. It has been used to treat blepharospasm, cervical dystonia, spasm in cerebral palsy, hemifacial spasm, focal spasticity associated with strokes and hyperhidrosis of axillae [excess armpit sweating] benefits have been observed in treatment of migraines and tension type headaches. More than 1 million patients in over 66 countries have been treated with Botulinum toxin. Although any procedure carries small risks, muscle relaxing injections are a very safe treatment in skilled hands.

Can all wrinkles be treated?

Botox is used to rejuvenate dynamic wrinkles and cannot improve face wrinkles cause by sun damage and age. We can offer other treatments for these problems. It cannot improve sagging skin either.

Does it make wrinkles worse once it wears off?

No, quite the reverse, it has been called '**the hibernation treatment**'. The Hibernation treatment is a preventative treatment. It temporarily freezes the muscle. The aim is to break the habits that cause our facial lines to form. This should soften your face and make you look younger. So, it has preventative value and it slows down the wrinkle formation and preserves youthful appearance.

Will I lose expression?

The extent to which facial expression is affected will depend on where the muscle relaxant is injected and how much of the substance is used. We favor subtle effects of a partial reduction in muscle activity, which will smooth out the lines but allow residual muscle movements and avoid artificial look. We can, however help to achieve the result you desire such as complete smoothing of the forehead or a brow lifting effect.

Who should not have Botox®?

Botox® should not be used in the presence of infection at the proposed injection site(s) and in individuals with known hypersensitivity to any ingredient in the formulation.

Patients with neurological disorders such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), myasthenia gravis, or Lambert-Eaton syndrome. Patients on aminoglycoside antibiotics or other agents interfering with neuromuscular transmission.

Not recommended during pregnancy or breast feeding.

Is there an age limit on who can have it?

Yes, it is not recommended before 18 years.

What are the side-effects?

Side-effects are very uncommon, rare side effects include headache, respiratory infection, flu like symptoms, temporary eyelid droop, and nausea. Other side effects include pain and redness where the medicine was injected, pain in the face, and muscle weakness. Serious and/or immediate hypersensitivity reactions are very rare. These reactions include urticaria, soft tissue oedema, and dyspnoea. If such a reaction occurs, further injection of Botox® should be discontinued and appropriate medical therapy immediately instituted.

Do you offer a consultation prior to injection?

Yes, we offer a consultation prior to injections so that you can make an informed decision about the treatment. However, you may elect to book for/ have an injection at the same time.

How is it administered?

You will be lying down with head end of the couch in a raised position. The doctor will give you a mirror and plan the treatment with you. A very fine needle and syringe will be used to administer the injections.

Is it painful?

No. it is administered with a very fine needle and in small amounts. Some patients feel a small scratch or an inset bite type feeling. Local anesthesia is not required during the procedure.

What happens after the procedure?

You may notice a slight swelling/ redness at the site of injection. It lasts a few minutes and you can then return to normal activities. It is a 'no-downtime' procedure.

How long does it take to work?

You may begin to notice some effect in 3-4 days and full effect takes up to 2 weeks.

How long does the effect last?

It varies from person to person and how many times you have had it. It may range from 2 to 6 months initially and longer after repeated treatments. Treatments should not be repeated before 3 months.