

# Botox

Botox is a purified toxin that is produced from an organism called Clostridium Botulinum. The toxin is separated and purified before adhering onto human albumin and storing. The toxin is reconstituted in controlled amounts by adding crystalloid prior to injecting into muscles.

It was originally developed to alleviate painful muscle spasms of the neck and eye and is indeed licensed for this use. However, it was noted that another property of the toxin is to paralyse muscles that cause ageing wrinkles around the face and also to cure some types of headaches. It is also used to treat excessive sweating.

It works by chemically blocking the transmission of electrical impulses from a nerve to a muscle at what is known as the motor-end plate.

The Botulinum Toxin is injected in volumes/concentrations known as Units.. Each treatment is carried out as an outpatient procedure. The treatment consists of multiple fine injections through the skin into selected muscle areas.

Effects start to become apparent after about 2-5 days and reach a peak at 1-2 weeks.

The treatment lasts for approximately 3 - 6 months. Thereafter it can be repeated. After regular injections of Botox the intervals of treatment may be longer.

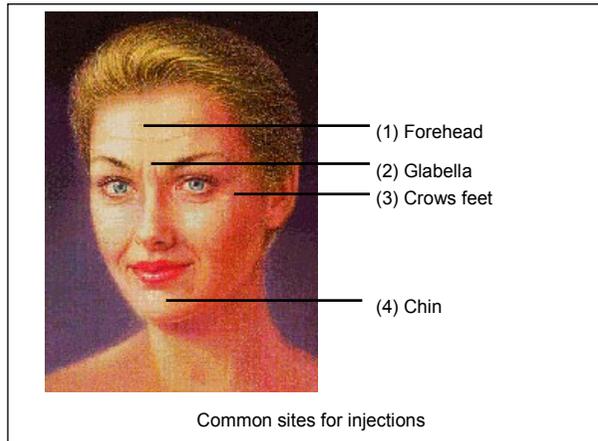
It is important that you inform the Clinician: if you are pregnant or breast feeding, if you suffer from muscle weakness or if you have any allergies, if you have any bleeding disorders, if you are on any medications

AS WE DO NOT WANT YOU TO SUFFER FROM ANY UNNECESSARY SIDE EFFECTS.

## THE TREATMENT

Please do not wear makeup around the area to be treated. Your skin will be cleaned with a saline swab prior to the treatment. The injection is fairly painless. It stings slightly, but wears off in seconds. You will not require any anaesthetic.

You will be asked to screw your eyes tightly together if the muscles around your eyes are being treated or to frown if your forehead is being treated.



## AFTER TREATMENT

You will be asked to hold a dressing over the treated area for a few minutes. Any swelling will subside after 24-48 hours.

The affected area may appear pink/red for 2-4 hours after the treatment.

There may be some bruising, and you can use a cool pack or a cold wet flannel if you wish. Some people are prone to bruise and it may take three weeks to resolve. Arnica may be useful.

The area is usually only tender to touch. When you get home, take it easy for 1-2 hours, then you can carry on with makeup as normal.

DO NOT RUB THE AREA AS THIS CAN SPREAD THE BOTOX INTO UNWANTED AREAS.

DO NOT PUT YOUR HEAD DOWN OR EXERCISE VIGOROUSLY FOR 24 HOURS AFTER TREATMENT.

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

The treatment may not work.

Rarely, patients have unwanted weakness of adjacent muscles. This will last about 3 months until the Botox wears off. There may be drooping of the upper eyelid, overflow of tears, irritation, dry eyes, sensitivity to light, or difficulty in closing the eye.

Risk of transmissible disease.

Botulinum Toxin is adhered onto human albumin. Blood donors are pre-selected to have low risk as carriers of disease and the donor blood and blood products are screened. Transmissible disease has not been reported within the world wide literature.

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