

# *BOTOX*

BOTOX is a purified toxin that works by blocking signals from nerves to muscles, leading to the relaxation and weakness of facial muscles that are related to expression lines. The lines, or wrinkles, eventually fade from disuse and new creases are prevented from forming. BOTOX is best used for the treatment of “crow’s feet,” forehead lines and “frown lines” between the eyebrows. BOTOX can also be used to reduce excessive sweating. The length of efficacy varies depending on treatment location. Early studies indicate that after receiving injections over time, there appears to be a longer lasting effect.

In our office we treat patients according to areas. Areas are defined as the following:

- Forehead
- Glabella (frown lines)
- Crows Feet
- Upper Lip
- Neck Bands
- Palms or Soles (for sweating)
- Underarms (for sweating)

This weakening response is usually seen 2-6 days after injection. It is common that the muscle action along with its associated wrinkles will return in 3-6 months. At that time repeat injections will be necessary to maintain its effects. Lines and wrinkles present at rest may not improve with this BOTOX treatment which is designed to treat lines produced by facial movement. Although the results are frequently dramatic, as high as 10% of patients may not respond to this treatment for unknown causes.

Fewer facial expressions will be possible after my injections with BOTOX including those of squinting, frowning and exclaiming.

## *Risks and Complications*

Side effects experienced by patients who have had BOTOX treatment include, but are not limited to: headache, bruising, pain during injections, asymmetry (one side not exactly like the other), twitching, numbness, and in a small percentage of cases, drooping of the eyelids or eyebrows. Also, the results of the injections may not last for as long or as well as expected.

## *Alternatives*

As explained, not all wrinkles will respond to BOTOX and even all muscles will not respond to BOTOX. Other alternatives include dermabrasion, chemical peeling, laser resurfacing, face-lifting, browlifting, necklifting, and other surgical resecting of the frown muscles of the brow; treatments with Retin-A or Renova or alpha hydroxy acids may also produce some benefits for many problems.

## *Off-Label Use of an FDA Approved Medication*

All over the US, there are now numerous doctors using BOTOX to treat the overactive muscles causing furrows, lines and wrinkles. This use is termed off-label use. This is considered innovative or experimental and left to the individual discretion of the doctor in regards her specific patient. With all treatments, whether approved or off-label, there are theoretical risks of unknown complications *which may exist*. *BOTOX is FDA approved for the cosmetic improvement of glabella lines, cervical dystonia, treatment of severe primary axillary hyperhidrosis, strabismus and blepharospasm.*