

BOTOX® COSMETIC

What is Botox® Cosmetic?

Botox® Cosmetic is the trade name for Botulinum Toxin Type A, a purified protein produced by the bacterium clostridium botulinum. By using extremely small doses of Botox® Cosmetic, injected directly into a specific muscle, only the action of that muscle will be diminished. Therefore, the problem that the muscle causes, like a twitch, spasm, or facial line, will be stopped.

Where is Botox® Cosmetic injected?

When we frown for any reason, we gather the tissue between our eyebrows into a fold. In some of us, this causes a chronic furrow. This produces a frustrated, discouraged, angry look on our face. This can be distracting to others, a bother to ourselves, and may cause us to look older than we'd like.

The frown line between the eyebrows is caused by the action of a muscle called the corrugator. You can feel this as a thickening just below the inside of your eyebrows, when you purposefully make yourself frown. Injecting Botox® Cosmetic directly into this corrugator muscle diminishes your ability to draw your eyebrows together when you frown. Once the muscle is relaxed, it cannot contract, and the frown line gradually fades away.

Botox® Cosmetic is also effective in the treatment of excessive sweating of the underarms or palms, and tension and/or migraine headaches.

How long does the treatment take? Is Botox® Cosmetic permanent?

The actual treatment takes only a few minutes and the Botox® Cosmetic takes effect in three to four days. Gradually, over three to five months, the Botox® Cosmetic effect will fade, and the muscle action will recur. When the facial lines start to reappear, a simple repeat treatment is all that is necessary to maintain the desired result.

Who can perform Botox® Cosmetic treatments?

This treatment should be done only by a physician trained in the use of Botox® Cosmetic.

How has Botox® Cosmetic been tested?

Botox® Cosmetic has been used since 1980 for the treatment of strabismus (lazy eye), and blepharospasm (uncontrolled eye blinking). The use of Botox® Cosmetic for forehead wrinkles was pioneered in 1964 by a dermatologist in Vancouver. A major study of this technique was completed in 1995, and a review published in The Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology. In 2002, Botox® Cosmetic was approved by the FDA to treat wrinkles of the upper face.

Are there any side effects from Botox® Cosmetic treatments?

The side effects of Botox® Cosmetic are related to the local injection of the solution. There will be a slight discomfort from the needle entering the skin, and a small chance of a bruise at the site of the injection. There are no reports of damage to the eye with injections to the eyelid. There have been no permanent side effects from the use of Botox® Cosmetic. Approximately 2% of patients will develop a slight lowering of one or both eyebrows or eyelids. This is temporary and may not even be noticed by the patient.

What does Botox® Cosmetic cost?

Botox® Cosmetic pricing is based on the number of Botox® Cosmetic units injected into the treatment area. The main treatment areas are the frown wrinkles (between the eyebrows), forehead wrinkles, and outer eye "crow's feet". The cost of each treatment depends on the amount of Botox® Cosmetic needed. Repeat treatments which are generally required every 4 months. Feel free to call our office to discuss pricing.