

# Botox and Dysport: The “Pretty Poisons”

By Dr. Babak Farzaneh

Tired of looking tired and old? Your answer might just be found in Neuromuscular Blockers. Just a few droplets from these “magic potions” turn back time and diminish wrinkles and frown lines.

Historically, Botox has been used for facial rejuvenation. The bacteria in Botox produces several toxins but is limited to only type A, which was originally used for medical purposes. Today, Botox is used to treat many conditions from headaches to hyperhidrosis (profuse sweating of palms and armpits). However, the most widespread use of Botox is its cosmetic application in improving facial lines and wrinkles.

Communication between the nerves and the muscles is hindered with the use of Botox, thereby paralyzing the treated muscles. The result is a relaxed muscle, unable to contract. No contraction, no wrinkle!

The two types of lines / wrinkles are dynamic and static. The static lines are the result of loss of collagen and thinning of the skin caused by factors such as sun damage, smoking, or genetics. Dynamic lines are caused by repetitive contraction of the corresponding muscles. Botox acts only on the “dynamic lines”.

Botox acts locally at the site of injection. It is not metabolized within the body, which minimizes systemic side effects. And, since it only affects the motor nerves, sensation remains intact; therefore, there is no risk of numbness.

These “pretty poisons” are one of the few procedures that may be done preventatively to slow the aging process even before wrinkles ever appear. Therefore, taking care of your skin today is an investment in the future.

The majority of patients are women, but more and more men are enjoying the results of these injections. Whether it is just for your own self-esteem or for that job interview, looking more youthful gives you more self-confidence. The procedure is relatively easy and quick, and causes only minimal pain. Injections are done with an ultra-super-thin needle in the areas of the glabella (between the head of the brows),

forehead and crow’s-feet. Treatment with Botox or Dysport in these areas results in a more rested, refreshed and relaxed appearance.

When Botox first became popular, the patient’s goal was to totally paralyze and freeze the muscle. It was not uncommon to spot a person looking expressionless, with Botox the suspected culprit. Nowadays, most patients opt for a more natural look, allowing some level of expressive movement.

Customization may be done with Botox, where the results are geared to the patient’s anatomy and desires. Experienced surgeons may be able to further utilize Botox to treat smoker’s lines, drooping of the corners of the lips and the corresponding marionette lines. Even some subtle changes can be made in the neck bands.

Botox and Dysport are both very effective. However, it does come down to the expertise of the treating doctor to determine which product and technique will achieve the desired look of youth and rejuvenation. Depending on the uniqueness of each patient, the treatment may be repeated every three to six months to maintain the results.

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