

BOTOX

What is Botox?

Botox is the trade name of Botulinum Toxin Type A, a purified toxin produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. In large amounts, this toxin blocks the nerve impulses to muscles, causing a form of weakness called botulism. By using extremely small doses of Botox, injected directly into a specific muscle, only the action of that muscle will be weakened. Therefore, the problem that muscle causes, such as a twitch, spasm, or frown line, will be stopped.

Where is Botox injected?

Botox is injected most commonly in the frown line between the eyebrows. This frown line is caused primarily 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 purposely make yourself frown. In some of us, this causes a chronic furrow. You can eliminate these frown lines without surgery and without scars, by a simple treatment with Botox. Injecting Botox directly into this corrugator muscle and surrounding muscles stops your ability to draw your eyebrows together when you frown. Once the muscle is weakened, it cannot contract, and the frown line generally fades away.

Can Botox be used for other lines?

Botox is also very effective in the treatment of crow's feet, forehead lines, and neck folds. Other areas can be treated with variable success.

Will it last?

The actual treatment takes only a few minutes and the Botox begins to take effect in three to four days with full effect occurring by two weeks. Gradually over three to five months, the Botox effect will fade, and the muscle action will return. When the lines start to reappear, a simple repeat treatment is all that is necessary to maintain the desired result.

Who can perform Botox treatments?

This therapy should be done only by a physician trained in the use of Botox.

How has Botox been tested?

Botox has been used since 1980 for the treatment of strabismus (lazy eye), and blepharospasm (uncontrolled eye blinking). The use of Botox for facial lines was pioneered in 1989 by Dr. Carruthers of Vancouver. A major study of the technique was completed in 1995, and a comprehensive review was published in *The Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. In April of 2002, Botox was officially approved by the FDA for cosmetic use.

What are the side effects?

The side effects of Botox 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 have been no permanent side effects from the use of Botox. Approximately 1% of patients will develop a slight lowering of the eyelid when Botox is injected in the vicinity of the eyelid. This is temporary and may not even be noticed by the patient.

What does it cost?

Dr. Badame bases his charges on the number of units injected. You may choose as little or as much as necessary depending on your needs. The usual number of units per site is 20 and the typical sites are the following: Crow's feet (both eyes), Frown lines (between eyes), and Forehead lines. Please inquire regarding the cost per unit.

What are Dr. Badame's qualifications?

Dr. Badame is a board certified dermatologist who has been performing Botox injections since 1996. He has acquired extensive experience with the procedure. Professional memberships to which Dr. Badame belongs include the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery, the American Academy of Dermatology, and the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery. Additionally, he is a clinical assistant professor at Stanford University where he teaches dermatologic surgery to the residents in dermatology. If you are interested in treatment with Botox, please inquire or simply make an appointment.