

Beauty with Botox

What is this substance that has rapidly become one of the most widely used cosmetic agents and how does it work? Botox is a powerful protein that works at the nerve endings to prevent the release of a molecule, responsible for muscle action. Without this molecule, the muscle does not function as effectively as it did, prior to the injection of Botox. Eventually, the nerve fibers sprout new endings and become effective again, but this process could take three to twelve months. In the interim, the muscles responsible for creating fine lines, have been weakened enough to soften them. In some instances, even surgery cannot remove these fine lines.



Please refer to the photo above. The woman's first photo demonstrates her pre-browlift appearance. Three years later, in the middle photo, the surgical effect is still present, but the fine lines of the mid-brow and crow's feet areas have reappeared and troubled her. The last photo was taken just a week following the middle one, but after the injection of just thirty Units of Botox. Notice how well the crow's feet have softened and how much the brow is lifted by the unopposed action of the forehead muscle. In other words, with expert attention to the injection of the muscles of the face, responsible for lowering the brow, the brow elevators are more effective at lifting it. In time, she will need another injection, but she will not need as much, thereby saving her some expense and she will not need the injections as frequently, after three or four sessions.

Research has demonstrated that the correct use of Botox is safe and effective, both in the short and long term. For over twenty years, this product has been in use in treating humans. In 1979 the FDA granted approval for the use of Botox to treat a troubling eye muscle condition; in 2003, the approval was expanded to include the treatment of the forehead muscles. Since then, many muscles and conditions are being treated with Botox, including excessive sweating of the underarms and palms, migraines, chronic pain, muscle spasm from cerebral palsy and Bells palsy, as well as a myriad of cosmetic uses. In 2003, the use of Botox became the most commonly performed cosmetic procedure in this country. It, however, must be stressed, that a highly trained physician should be the only practitioner using this potentially harmful product; and that the setting for its use should only be in the physician's office or clinic, where properly certified equipment is available.

There are certain patients with established conditions that make it impossible to safely receive Botox injections. Those conditions include an allergy to eggs or albumin, an active infection of the face, especially with the Herpes virus, myasthenia gravis or neuromuscular functional disorders, pregnancy or lactation. Physicians are responsible for completely evaluating each patient's suitability for treatment. Additionally, the patient's expectations should be clearly defined. Thereby, optimal and satisfactory results can be achieved without the risks of unfavorable outcomes. Remember – safety first and beauty second!

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