

SPRINGFIELD ENT & FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY

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BOTOX®

Botox® treatment is used for facial wrinkles caused by contraction of the muscles of facial expression animation. These wrinkles can create a tired, grouchy, or aged appearance. Typical areas treated with Botox include:

- Crow's feet - wrinkles beside eyes caused by squinting and smiling.
- Horizontal forehead wrinkles - due to action of forehead muscles.
- Frown lines - vertical lines above nose in forehead.
- Mouth wrinkles - located around mouth and due to contracting or pursing the lips.

What is Botox®?

Botox® is actually a biologic agent produced by the bacteria *Clostridium botulinum* and is involved in the disease botulism. Botox® is purified botulinum toxin and has been used safely and effectively for a variety of muscular problems and even for headache.

Botox® Injection

- Scheduling – usually discussed during a cosmetic consultation. A date for the procedure will either be scheduled then or by telephone at a later time.
- Treatment is usually arranged at a time when several patients require injection. Botox® is must be used within a limited period of time once prepared and the actual agent is fairly expensive. Treatment is made more affordable by treating several patients at the same time.
- Photographs – usually taken before treatment and at various times afterward
- Procedure – performed as a minor procedure in the office. The Botox® is injected into the facial muscles in the areas to be treated. Each area of the face being treated will receive several injections.

After Botox® Treatment

- Avoid massaging the areas to prevent undesired spread of the Botox®.
- About 2 – 3 days are required for treatment to take effect (though may take a week in some cases)
- Botox® usually lasts for about 3 – 4 months.
- Retreatment may be performed at this time if one desires.

Follow-up appointments

- A recheck appointment may be scheduled two weeks after treatment.
- Subsequent follow up about 3 months may be arranged per one's preference if retreatment around that time is desired.

Risks and complications

Botox® is a very safe treatment for wrinkles. However, like anything in medicine, adverse and undesired effects may occur. The dose of Botox® is very low compared to the amount needed to have effects elsewhere in the body or to cause botulism. Some of these include:

- Adverse reaction - allergic or other reaction to Botox®
- Asymmetry - difference in the amount of effect that the treatment has in one area or side of the face compared to another. Of course, all faces have some amount of asymmetry from one side to the other. If this occurs, it will resolve as the Botox® wears off after a few months.
- Eyelid ptosis - Mild drooping of an eyelid may rarely occur if the Botox® has an effect on eyelid muscles. This may occur after massaging areas treated around the eyes. It will usually resolve before the benefits of Botox® wear off. Or, it may be treated with eye drops. Very uncommon.

Further information may be found at www.botox.com.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in your health care. Please let us know how we may make your medical experience more pleasant.

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