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BOTOX FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Botox®?

Botox® is a prescription medicine that is injected into muscles and used to improve the look of moderate to severe frown lines between the eyebrows (glabellar lines) in people 18 to 65 years of age for a short period of time (temporary). Botox® is administered by a healthcare professional as a simple, nonsurgical treatment that is injected directly into the muscles between the brows. It works by blocking nerve impulses to the injected muscles. This reduces muscle activity that causes moderate to severe lines to form between the brows. Individual results may vary.

How does Botox® work?

Botox® is a prescription medicine that is injected into muscles and used to improve the moderate-to-severe frown lines between the eyebrows (glabellar lines), on the forehead, and crow's feet to the sides of the eyes. It works by blocking nerve impulses to the injected muscles. This reduces muscle activity that causes moderate to severe lines to form between the brows.

When will I see results from a Botox® treatment?

Within days, you may see a marked improvement in the moderate-to-severe frown lines between your brows. Lines continue to improve for up to 30 days, and results can last for up to 4 months. Individual results may vary.

How long does Botox® last?

Patients can expect visible results to last approximately three months. Individual results may vary. Repeat treatments are normally scheduled at three month intervals.

What will happen to the moderate to severe wrinkles if I choose not to continue treatments?

If you do not continue treatments, the moderate to severe wrinkles will gradually return to the way they looked before treatment.

Is treatment with Botox® painful?

Discomfort is usually minimal and brief. Prior to injection, your physician may choose to numb the area with a cold pack or anesthetic cream. The entire procedure takes approximately 10 minutes. Most patients are in and out of the physician's office without downtime following Botox® treatment.

Will I need an anesthetic?

The needle use for injection is very small and anesthesia is not used. Ice placed over the treatment areas after the treatment decreases the possibility of bruising.

Will I still be able to make facial expressions?

Although the results are visible, a treatment with Botox® will not radically change your facial appearance or make you look as if you've "had work done." The muscle activity that causes frown lines between the brows is temporarily reduced, so you can still frown or look surprised without the wrinkles and creases between your brows.

What should I do before a treatment?

Do not drink alcohol on the day of treatment. Remove all makeup before treatment. It is advisable to avoid blood-thinning medications a few days prior to treatment, as this can increase the risk of bruising. These medications include aspirin, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications such as ibuprofen, fish oil, vitamin E, or products containing Ginkgo biloba. Patients taking warfarin or coumadin should not be treated.

What should I do after a treatment?

Do not vigorously rub or massage the treated areas. Do not drink alcohol for 24 hours after treatment. Do not participate in sports or vigorous exercise for 24 hours after treatment. Do not lie down for four hours after treatment. Any of these activities can increase the risk of spread of the toxin to distant locations, causing side effects.

Is treatment with Botox[®] safe?

The safety record of Botox[®] is well established. The product has been used for over 20 years for a variety of treatments with minimal side effects. Botox[®] is amongst the safest treatments for treating facial wrinkles.

What are the side effects of Botox[®]?

Common side effects associated with the injection include mild discomfort, temporary bruising or swelling, and mild headache. Rare side effects include localized pain, infection, tenderness, redness, and bleeding. Other rare side effects include dry mouth, tiredness, headache, neck pain, eye problems such as double vision, blurred vision, decreased eyesight, drooping eyelids, swelling of your eyelids, and dry eyes, and allergic reactions. Symptoms of an allergic reaction to Botox[®] may include itching, rash, red itchy welts, wheezing, asthma symptoms, or dizziness or feeling faint. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you are wheezing or have asthma symptoms, or if you become dizzy or faint.

Who should not take Botox[®]?

Do not take Botox[®] if you are allergic to any of the ingredients or if you have had an allergic reaction to any other botulinum toxin products such as Myobloc[®] or Dysport[®]. A Medication Guide is available for a list of ingredients.

Do not take Botox[®] if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breast feeding.

Do not take Botox[®] if you have an infection at the site of injection.

Do not take Botox[®] if you are taking an aminoglycoside antibiotic, an anesthetic, D-penicillamine, antimalarials, or immunosuppressants. Do not take Botox[®] if you have recently undergone chemotherapy.

Do not take Botox[®] if you have a disease that affects your muscles and nerves such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease), myasthenia gravis, or Lambert-Eaton syndrome.

Do not take Botox[®] if you are on warfarin or Coumadin. Do not take Botox[®] if you have a bleeding or clotting disorder.

Is Botox[®] expensive?

The price of treatment depends on the number of units required. This varies according to the number of treatment areas, size of the areas, intensity of the wrinkles, and gender. Please schedule a consultation so the physician can determine what is right for you.