

## Magic of botox

Botulinum toxin A is a product of specific bacteria (*Clostridium botulinum*), which cause food poisoning called Botulism. The poison they produce is among the most toxic, but a mildly concentrated form of toxin is used in medical purposes. When applied in small doses into specific muscles, Botox blocks chemical signals and disables muscle contraction.

*Written by DERMATIM clinic dermatologists*



### **Why apply it?**

Facial skin reflects the movements of our muscles by carving out the wrinkles. By blocking the work of certain muscles, skin wrinkles disappear, and already deeply carved out ones are significantly corrected. In this way, a tired or angry facial expression, emphasized by mimic wrinkles, is lost. Eyebrow raiser is not applied to the muscles, and so the person keeps the natural facial expression, with the usual movement of wrinkles.

Botulinum toxin A is used since 1980 for the treatment of various muscle disorders in neurology and ophthalmology. In 1987 it was approved by the World Health Organization for safe and efficient use in ages from 18 to 65 years old for treating mild and pronounced facial wrinkles, between the eyebrows and around the eyes.

### **When is botox a good choice?**

1. Vertical lines between the eyebrows, and nose creases
2. Creases in the corners of the eyes
3. Furrows on the forehead
4. Asymmetry of eyelids or eyebrows

## ***When is it not a good option***

Not all facial wrinkles can be corrected or improved by botox. It can not correct the wrinkles made by sun damage. Also, it is less desirable to treat the lines in the lower half of the face. Muscles in this region are significant for the usual daily functions and it is not comfortable for them to be weakened.

## ***Other indications***

Besides treating wrinkles, it is used in persistent headaches, problems with eye movements and muscle spasms.

Increased sweating (*Hyperhidrosis*) is treated with a largely diluted Botox and a surface application directly beneath the skin. This weakens the function of the sweat glands, and one treatment enables at least a 6 months to a 1 year period without increased sweating.

## ***Risks***

Botox injections are completely safe when applied by a physician.

There are only two approved botulinum toxin A medicaments today, Dysport and Botox (Allergan). The physician is obliged to show the patient the bottle that will be used for the treatment.

**If there is no label on it, the treatment is not safe and should not be accepted.**

Primary complications are:

- Bruise around the injection point (passes in about 5-7 days)
- Headache or sickness (24-48h, usually following the first application)
- Temporary muscle weakness and the collapse of the eyebrows (lasts up to 3 months and is a physicians fault)

## ***Results***

You will notice the result after a few days, but the full effect come ten days after the application. With a moderate Botox application you maintain a completely natural facial expression, and no antirid or cream can postpone wrinkles from forming with such effect. It lasts from 4 to 6 months, and after that the muscle recovers.

When the effect from the Botox injection passes, the muscle function is completely recovered and the treatment can be repeated unlimited amount of times. Also, the treatments can be stopped at any moment without fear that any consequences will appear on the face.