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BOTULINUM TOXIN AND DERMAL FILLER INFORMATION

What is Botulinum Toxin?

Botulinum toxin is a bacterium that blocks the release of acetylcholine, the substance responsible for transmitting electrical impulses that elicit muscle contraction. In medicine, botulinum toxin is injected directly into hyperactive muscles.

How does botulinum toxin work?

Hyperactivity of the facial expression muscles often results in the development of deep frown lines, forehead lines and/or crow's feet. Injecting botulinum toxin into the affected area temporarily paralyzes the underlying muscles responsible for wrinkling giving the face a more relaxed and pleasant appearance. The wrinkles become smoother or disappear altogether.

When and how long does the botulinum work?

The initial effects of treatment become visible within in 48 to 72 hours. The maximum effect is reached in about 1-2 weeks.

Your facial expression will become more relaxed but by no means mask-like. The overall result is very natural.

The effect of treatment generally lasts for 4-6 months. Re-treatment is then required.

Potential adverse effects (side effects).

Botulinum toxin injection is generally a safe and effective treatment method.

Nevertheless, certain side effects can occur but, like the intended treatment effects, they are mostly reversible.

You will be informed about the potential side effects of botulinum toxin therapy, contraindications to therapy and potential drug interactions.

- Bruising or swelling at the injection site
- Slight feeling of nausea
- Tiredness, pain in the arms and legs
- Temporary drooping of the eyebrow or upper eyelid
- Brief visual disturbances
- Dryness of the eyes
- Skin rash
- Itching
- Allergic reactions
- Dry mouth

- Muscle atrophy

Contraindications

- Pregnancy
- Breast feeding
- Myasthenia gravis
- Lambert-Eaton Syndrome
- Blood coagulation disorders

Drug interactions

Drug interactions can occur when botulinum toxin is used concomitantly with other medications. Since these medications can alter the effects of botulinum toxin, you must ensure that your doctor is aware of any current medications you are taking, especially

- Aminoglycoside antibiotics
- Anaesthetics
- Muscle relaxants

Dermal Filler - Juvéderm®ULTRA

Juvéderm®ULTRA is injected into the dermis to correct wrinkles, folds and lines of the face and skin or for lip augmentation. Due to the use of the needle, there is likely to be some bleeding at the injection site. Reactions giving rise to, for example, redness and swelling may occur after the injection and this may be associated with stinging, itching or discomfort upon pressure at the injection site. This reaction may last for several days. Rarely discolouration of the injection site, necrosis, abscess formation, granulomas, hypersensitivity and haematomas have been reported. Indurations or nodules may develop at the injection site.

If any of these symptoms persist for more than one week, or if any side effects develop please report them to the practitioner as soon as possible so that they can advise on the best course of treatment. Whilst rare, such side-effects and their treatment may last for several months.

The aesthetic effects of Juvéderm®ULTRA last up to 12 months but will vary depending on the condition of the skin, area treated, amount of product injected, injection technique and lifestyle factors such as sun exposure and smoking.

The average life treatment in the lips is less than other areas because of the high vascularisation and action of the lip area. A touch-up procedure may be enquired 1-3 weeks after the first injection. This helps to optimise the results and maximise the duration of the results.

After treatment, please avoid extreme facial expression, alcohol consumption and applying make up for 12 hours. Please avoid extreme sun exposure, UV light, freezing temperatures and saunas for 2 weeks after treatment.

