

Latest Innovations

Procedure of the Month—Botox® Cosmetic

As part of my effort to provide continuing patient education, I have decided to focus on one procedure each month and provide detailed materials on that procedure. The procedure and links to educational materials will be featured on the homepage—<http://innovationsfps.com>—and there will be a spotlight article in the newsletter. This month, I am featuring Botox Cosmetic.

What is Botox Cosmetic?

Botox, or botulinum toxin type A, is a purified protein produced by the *Clostridium botulinum* bacterium, which reduces the activity of the muscles that cause those frown lines between the brows to form over time. Botox, produced by Allergan corporation, is marketed under the names Botox and Botox Cosmetic. First approved by the FDA for medical uses, such as cross eyes and facial spasm, Botox was recently approved for use as Botox Cosmetic to reduce the wrinkles between the eyebrows.

There has been recent media attention about the safety of Botox—is it safe?

In February 2008, the United States Food and Drug administration put out an early communication indicating it was researching several reactions to Botox which mimicked botulinum toxin poisoning. The reactions cited occurred with the use of Botox for medical reasons and in doses which are much higher than those used for cosmetic purposes. In a response, the American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive surgery, reiterated that the concerns were raised for large doses and did not occur in cosmetic applications. Given that this procedure is the most common non-surgical cosmetic procedure performed according to the ASAPS survey, and the lack of serious reported consequences, it is likely that the procedure is quite safe.

What are the side effects of Botox?

As with any medication, there are side effects. According to the prescribing information of the medication supplied by the manufacturer and approved by the FDA, the most common side effects with Botox Cosmetic are

- Headache
- Respiratory infection
- Flu syndrome
- Blepharoptosis (eyelid droop)
- Nausea
- Pain in the face
- Redness at the injection site
- Paresthesia (numbness)
- Muscle weakness

As with any medication, there is always a chance of allergic reaction and the physician administering the medication should be prepared to deal with this potentially life threatening condition.

Who should be careful with Botox?

All people should be careful with the medication. Special care should be taken in people with other neuromuscular conditions or previous reaction to the medicine. Administration should be by a licensed, experienced, and trained professional with direct physician supervision if not done by a physician personally. The medication can spread for approximately one centimeter from the area injected and cause muscle paralysis in unwanted areas. This can lead to eyelid droop with brow injection, difficulty swallowing with neck injections, and difficulty talking and drooling with lip injections.

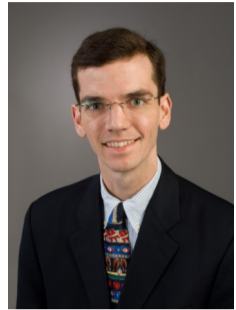
What does Botox treat?

Current, the FDA has approved Botox cosmetic for the temporary treatment of moderate to severe frown lines between the brows in people ages 18–65. It is used as an off-label but same use for treating crow's feet (lines around the eyes), and forehead wrinkles.

Botox was first approved in 1989 to treat two eye muscle disorders-- uncontrollable blinking (blepharospasm) and misaligned eyes (strabismus). In 2000, the toxin was approved to treat a neurological movement disorder that causes severe neck and shoulder contractions, known as cervical dystonia. As an unusual side effect of the eye disorder treatment, doctors observed that Botox softened the vertical frown (glabellar) lines between the eyebrows that tend to make people look tired, angry or displeased.

For more information about this and other facial cosmetic surgery procedures, visit Dr. Verret on the web at <http://innovationsfps.com>.

Volume I, Issue V, June 2008



Ask the Doctor

Is it important to have a physician perform my Botox and Juvederm injections rather than a nurse?

When considering injectibles such as Botox, Juvederm, Restylane, or others, it is important to consider who performs the procedure. Anyone can be taught how to technically perform the procedure. What is important is having someone who knows the anatomy of the area to be able to prevent complications and have someone perform the injections who is able to deal with possible complications. While the vast majority of injections are performed without a problem, some complications can be life threatening and it is important to have a trained, skilled physician readily available to deal with any problems. This is why in my practice, I perform all injections personally.

-D.J. Verret, MD
Facial Plastic & Reconstructive
Surgery

Events and Specials

June 28, 2008

Join Dr. Verret, surgical radiologist Dr. Doohi Lee, and naturopathic physician Dr. Kimberly Wilson for a free seminar on looking and feeling your best. Dr. Lee will speak about leg vein therapy, Dr. Wilson on natural methods for

Monthly Special

From now until July 15, 2008 take 15% off Botox — administered personally by Dr. Verret.

Blog—Get your questions answered

Check out <http://dallascosmeticsurgeryblog.com> for more information about cosmetic surgery.