

MUSCLE RELAXING INJECTIONS

This is a prescription only procedure using the muscle relaxing toxin created by the Botulinum bacteria which blocks the electrical impulses that cause muscle contraction.

It is used to treat dynamic wrinkles caused by muscle contractions during facial expressions such as smiling and frowning. Therefore are commonly found on the forehead, between the eyebrows and around the eyes.

By deactivating the underlying muscles the wrinkle cannot form and gradually diminishes providing a smoother, more youthful appearance.

Static wrinkles occur during the aging process and can be treated by alternate treatments so a combination of procedures is recommended.

The upper third of the face is the most common area treated but muscles in the jaw line, chin and neck can produce changes in facial contour. A “gummy smile” can also be reduced by this method.

A very small amount of toxin is injected directly into the muscle causing the dynamic wrinkles using a very small needle to minimize discomfort. The injection feels like a small prick with a little sting. The entire procedure takes about 10 minutes. There is no recovery time and patients can return to work immediately or other activities after a few hours.

The smoothing effects will be noticeable after 3-5 days with continuous improvement for up to 2 weeks for the maximum effect

The effect gradually wears off, allowing the dynamic wrinkle to return. Thus, follow up treatments are necessary to maintain the desired result. Repeat treatments may lead to improved results as the muscle causing the wrinkles becomes less responsive over time, a process called chemical denervation.

A number of patients who use the muscle relaxing injections end up developing antibodies that neutralize the effect of the injections resulting to ineffective treatment. Therefore treatments should not be repeated in less than 3 monthly intervals

Clinical trials have shown Botulinum Toxin A to be safe and effective.

The most common side effects are headache, small amount of local bleeding and swelling, More extensive bruising can occur around the eyes but can be covered with make up. There is also a small possibility of slight blurred vision or temporary eyelid droop.

Occasionally the shape of the eyebrows may alter but this can be rectified if the raised effect is unwanted. Rarely there may be muscle weakness away from the site of the injection

For a few hours after the injection the muscles should be worked to promote the absorption of the toxin. The area should not be rubbed or massaged and the head kept upright for several hours.

It is important to remember that all results are not permanent and will resolve in 3 months.

Treatment is not recommended in pregnant or breastfeeding women or people with neuromuscular disorders