

**SKIN CARE CENTER OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
MT. VERNON, IL 62864**

**BOTOX
WRINKLES AND FROWN LINES**

Frown lines are the result of gathering or pulling the tissue between the eyebrows into a fold. These unattractive folds and furrows are caused by the repeated action of underlying muscles associated with facial expression. Years of squinting and frowning tend to leave deep wrinkles in the skin between the eyebrows and on the bridge of the nose, across the forehead, and at the corners of the eyes. Frown lines produce an angry or sad look that can detract from a pleasant facial appearance.

WHAT IS BOTOX?

Botulinum toxin is a purified substance derived from a bacteria that blocks the nerve signals from the brain to the muscle. By injecting very tiny amounts into a specific facial muscle, only the impulse of that muscle will be blocked, causing a local relaxation and weakness. In this way, botulinum toxin acts as a muscle blockade to immobilize the underlying cause of the unwanted lines and prevent “wrinkly” expressions. The FDA has granted approval to Botox Cosmetic for the temporary improvement in the appearance of moderate to severe glabellar (vertical) lines in adult men and women 65 or younger.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE TREATMENT?

Treatment involves injection of very small amounts of botulinum toxin into the underlying muscles to relax them. The actual treatment is well tolerated and takes just a few minutes with no “down time” or prolonged recovery period. Botulinum toxin takes effect about 3 to 7 days after treatment. The improvement generally lasts about 3 to 4 months before the effect gradually fades and muscle action returns. It is anticipated that the average patient will require reinjection at various intervals. With repeated treatments, atrophy (thinning) of the muscle may occur which usually produces longer-lasting results.

TREATMENT AREAS:

Botulinum toxin is injected directly into the target muscle to treat:

1. Vertical lines between the eyebrows and on the bridge of the nose.
2. Squint lines or crows feet at the corners of the eyes.
3. The forehead horizontal lines.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE TREATMENT?

Once the muscle is weakened and relaxed, it cannot contract. Since there is no way to make the undesirable facial expression, the lines gradually smooth out from disuse, and new creases are prevented from forming. Other muscles like those needed to raise the eyebrows are not affected; so a natural expression is maintained.

ARE THERE SIDE EFFECTS?

Side effects are minimal and typically relate to the local injection. Soreness or mild bruising, while uncommon, may occur around the injection site. Makeup may be worn after treatment, but care should be taken to avoid pressing or massaging the area for several hours. A temporary headache is not uncommon after injections in the forehead area, especially after the first treatment.

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