

# Wrinkle Correction with Botulinum Toxin

## What is botulinum toxin?

Type A botulinum toxin is a protein produced by bacteria, whose action is based on blocking nerve impulses. When administered into a muscle, the nerve impulses sent to it are intentionally blocked, which leads to a noticeable relaxation or paralysis of the corresponding muscle. As a result of this muscle relaxation, facial wrinkles, for example, frown lines, are smoothed out.

Other nerve functions, such as the sense of touch through the skin, remain almost unaffected. However, the secretion of sweat decreases. Type A botulinum toxin has been an effective treatment for severe neurological motor disorders for many years, as well as a means for correcting facial wrinkles, for example, frown lines, and treating pathologically severe sweating in the armpits. Nowadays, this medicine is approved for use in 70+ countries with more than 20 various indications.

## Treatment

The medicine is administered using precisely calibrated syringes with extremely thin needles. This may temporarily cause mild pain. To avoid small bruises in the puncture points, these areas are pressed (i.e., with a cloth pad) within a few minutes after the injection, and, if necessary, slightly cooled.

## When will botulinum toxin take effect and how long will this effect last?

In most cases, the effect of treatment occurs after 48-72 hours, with the maximum effect achieved in about 6 weeks. Occasionally, it takes longer to start working. The effect usually lasts from three to six months, so repeated sessions are usually required for a long-term effect. The smoothing effect after the injection is also preserved for a long time.

## Side Effects and Complications

As a result of the injection, small bruises or swelling may appear. Information is available about possible temporary deterioration of health, fatigue, itching, skin rashes, and headache. If the effect is uneven, there may be a temporary violation of the facial proportions (asymmetry), therefore correction may be required, that is, repeated administration of the medicine over the next few days. However, in many cases, this asymmetry disappears by itself several days later. Rarely, more unpleasant complications occur, such as temporary drooping of an eyebrow or upper eyelid, or short-term visual disturbances. To largely eliminate such risks, the injection should be administered by an experienced and well-trained doctor. All the side effects, as well as the effect of botulinum toxin, are temporary.

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## **Contraindications when being treated with botulinum toxin**

For safety reasons, it is not recommended to use this method during pregnancy and lactation. If you have any background diseases accompanied by muscle weakness (for example, myasthenia gravis, Lambert-Eaton syndrome), or blood clotting disorders, you should also abstain from treatment with botulinum toxin.

## **Compatibility**

When taking certain medicines, their interaction with botulinum toxin should be considered. These medicines can affect the effect of botulinum toxin, so make sure you inform your doctor about taking certain medicines. Such medicines include: antibiotics of the aminoglycoside group, anesthetics, etc., and muscle relaxants.

## **Are there any alternative botulinum toxin applications?**

More often and in much higher dosages, botulinum toxin is used to treat neurological and muscle disorders accompanied by muscle spasms. In recent years, it has proven effective in the treatment of excessive sweating (hyperhidrosis).

## **After treatment:**

- It is forbidden to massage the puncture points for some 6-8 hours.
- Please refrain from strong facial expressions, alcohol consumption, and makeup for 12 hours after treatment.
- Please do not lie down for 3-4 hours after treatment.
- Do not stay in the bright sun and avoid visiting the sauna for 2 weeks after the treatment.

You may feel a little pressure, for example, above the eyebrows after the treatment. In very rare instances, a mild headache may appear within a few days. An insufficient amount of medicine initially administered is a common issue. Both for medical and financial reasons, doctors usually begin with lower doses. It is recommended to visit the doctor again in 2 weeks as a correction or additional injection might be required.

If you are satisfied with the result, then you do not need to return in two weeks for a checkup. Your facial expression will become more relaxed, and in addition, more natural, and in no case will it look like a mask. Please note that in some cases it is necessary to use a larger volume of the medicine, which increases the cost of treatment.

Learn more: [www.compendium.ch/mproAIPS/sm/55955/de](http://www.compendium.ch/mproAIPS/sm/55955/de)

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