BOTOX INJECTIONS FOR WRINKLES

The aim of this information sheet is to ensure that you understand the nature of the treatment you wish to undertake. Please read it carefully and discuss any queries with Mr Banwell or his aesthetic nurse.

What is Botulinum toxin?

Botulinum toxin is a chemical produced by the botulinum bacteria. Botox is a protein derivative of the toxin, which, when injected into a muscle, causes it to become weakened or inactivated. It stops the muscle from functioning by blocking neuromuscular transmission i.e. it stops the chemical messages from the nerve to the muscle.

How does it work?

By using facial muscles repeatedly throughout a lifetime, the skin is creased in areas of greatest use. The ageing process causes the slow down of collagen and elastin production in the skin so that as we get older, these areas of over-use become damaged and the lines become permanent. By reducing the movement of muscles in these areas, the skin stops being creased and is allowed to recover, causing the lines to soften or even fade away. In the areas treated, the muscles are temporarily inactivated (always reversible), during which time the patient can break the subconscious habit of overusing these muscles. Depending on each individual and the dose used, the response to treatment can vary from a relaxation of the muscles to an inability to move the muscles.

For the first couple of years, frequent treatments are required to `re-educate' the facial muscles. Thereafter, treatments would be less frequent until a yearly maintenance treatment is normally all that is required.

How long has Botox been in use?

As long ago as 1978, Botox was used as a treatment for patients with eye squints by weakening the overactive eye muscle. Since then, it has been used in a variety of therapeutic areas such as spasmodic neck, writer's cramp, tics, multiple sclerosis, facial spasm, Parkinson's Disease and cerebral palsy, to name but a few. In more recent times the use of Botox for cosmetic therapy has become more widespread.

How safe is Botox?

In high concentrations botulinum toxin is a potent poison. However, Botox used in minute doses, as it is in cosmetic medicine, has a very high margin of safety.

What happens during treatment?

The procedure takes about 15 to 20 minutes. Mr Banwell's Aesthetic Nurse will ask you to use certain muscles of the face to observe how they work. An extremely fine, short needle is used to inject the Botox into the appropriate area. This may cause some slight but brief discomfort. The area may have some slight redness and swelling, which normally resolves in an hour or two. The treatment normally starts to take effect after 4 to 14 days, but this may vary slightly with some individuals. The effects will normally last between 2 and 6 months, when you will start to notice an ability to move the muscles more freely.

Are there any side effects?

Side effects of this treatment are rare. Occasionally a temporary drooping of the eyelid can occur. This may last a few weeks, but will always resolve. Special eye drops can be prescribed during this time to help lift the lid back into the normal position. In extremely rare cases patients have developed an allergy to the treatment, while others have shown resistance, i.e. it causes little or no effect on the treated muscles.

Important Notice

Mr Banwell strongly advises you stop smoking prior to surgery as this can affect the outcome of surgery and increase complication rates. Nutritional supplements, anticoagulant medication and blood thinners (eg. aspirin and brufen) all increase the risk of bleeding and should be stopped prior to surgery unless otherwise instructed.

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NOTES & QUESTIONS

AT A GLANCE

SURGERY TIME
30 - 60 Minutes

HOSPITAL STAY
Out Patients

ANAESTHETIC ASSESSMENT
No

PRE ADMISSION TESTS
No

SLEEPING POSITION
Sleeping on back recommended.

REASONABLY MOBILE
Immediately

WASHING
Shower after 1 day

DRIVING
Immediate

EXCERCISE INCLUDING GYM
2 Weeks

SEXUAL ACTIVITY
Restrictred Activity

FULL RECOVERY
Immediate

TIME OFF WORK
None