



17 Battle Hill, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 1BA. T: 01434 603759 F: 01434 603759  
E: info@hexhamdentalclinic.com. www.hexhamdentalclinic.com

## **Wrinkle Reduction using Botulinum Toxin**

### **Information for Patients**

#### **What is Botulinum Toxin?**

Botulinum Toxin, also known as Botox, is a purified naturally occurring chemical that causes a temporary paralysis of human muscles. Botox has been used since the 1960's to treat neurological conditions, but its' routine use for a range of clinical and cosmetic indications is becoming widespread. Botox injections are a popular form of non-surgical treatment for problems such as frown-lines, forehead furrows and "crow's feet".

#### **What does the treatment involve?**

The lines and wrinkles which respond best to Botox injections are those that form during the use of the muscles of facial expression. The dentist will accurately determine where to place the injection by asking you to contract the facial muscles prior to treatment. Botox is then injected directly into the muscle with a tiny needle. The full effect of the injections may take up to 2 weeks although most people will see some change within 5-7 days.

#### **What benefits will I see?**

Shortly after the treatment you should notice a change in some of the facial signs of aging, including smoothing of the facial contour, loss of skin wrinkling and relaxation of taut areas. Botox injections are a temporary solution for the treatment of wrinkles, but effects last between 3-6 months and repeat treatments are not always regularly required.

Botox injections are considered superior to surgery because;

- You can immediately resume normal activities.
- Treatment is reversible within a few months.
- Risk of infection, scarring and discomfort is minimal.

#### **Are there any possible side effects?**

Virtually no serious complications have been reported with Botox, and generally side effects are short-lived. Some patients experience numbness around the site of treatment, and occasionally slight swelling, bruising or a burning sensation occurs during the injection. About 1 in 50 patients develop a temporary drooping of the eyebrow or eyelid. Some patients may complain of a temporary headache and nausea with large doses of Botox.

#### **Can the treatment fail or interact?**

A small percentage experience no improvement at all following treatment. Certain medications (some antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, and aspirin) and even some vitamins and herbs may increase the potency of Botox and may increase bleeding and bruising at the time of injection. Patients should inform their dentist about all medications and supplements that they are taking, and any past medical history.

It is not known whether injections of Botox has any effect on an unborn child or whether it is found in breast milk. It is therefore best avoided whilst pregnant or breast-feeding.