

Botox facts

Over time, expressions leave their mark upon your face. You laugh, you frown, and you concentrate. Until recently, there was not a lot you could do about it. The solution, a simple, non-surgical procedure that can dramatically reduce even your toughest wrinkle within days.

What is Botox?

Botox is a natural, purified protein that relaxes wrinkle-causing muscles creating a smoother, rejuvenated and more youthful appearance. Although the substance is derived from a bacterium, as are many of our other commonly used medicines, it is able to be used for treatment because it is applied in extremely small amounts and when injected properly, does not spread outside the immediate muscles into which it is injected.

Due to restrictions from the TGA, the actual name of the injection cannot be used when advertising.

How does Botox work?

Botox injections treat wrinkles caused by the contraction of facial muscles. A tiny amount of the wrinkle treatment substance is injected into the muscle that creates the dynamic (or movement) wrinkle. When the substance is injected into a muscle, it inhibits the transmission of the nerve impulse from reaching that area, and as a result, the muscle relaxes. As the muscle relaxes, the dynamic wrinkle overlying the muscle is smoothed away. It is important to note that Botox treatments do not immediately improve static lines, or lines that are present at rest. These can be treated by adding volume with dermal fillers. However, usually over a number of Botox treatments, the skin that is normally creased has time to rest and recover, with an improvement in the static lines seen gradually. The fact that the Botox injections also stop the constant compression of the skin prevents permanent "etching" of the wrinkles in the areas treated. The treatment substance is administered using a very fine sterile disposable syringe and a fine-gauge needle to inject into the muscle. The number of injections required varies depending upon what part of the face is being treated.

How long does it last?

The effects of Botox treatments are usually seen only after one to two weeks. You will gradually notice a general relaxation of the muscles treated which may commence at 2-3 days, but it may be two weeks to be very noticeable. The duration of the effectiveness is dependent on the dose administered and can last for up to 4 months. Generally on the first few sessions of treatment, the longevity is usually shorter, lasting around 3 months.