

Botox™

Botox™ is used to make lines or wrinkles between the eyebrows look better. It only lasts for a short time.

What is Botox™?

Botox™ comes from a kind of bacteria. The bacteria can make you very sick. But doctors have found that a chemical in Botox™ can also help treat some health problems. They have been using it safely for many years.

How was this found?

FDA approved Botox™ over 10 years ago to treat certain problems with the eye muscle. Doctors noticed that some wrinkles around the eyes looked better, too. The company that makes Botox™ tested it. They showed the FDA that Botox™ worked and was safe for treating some kinds of wrinkles.

How does Botox™ work?

Wrinkles may be caused when a muscle tightens. Botox™ is injected through the skin into the muscle. The Botox™ keeps the muscle from tightening. When the muscle can't tighten, the wrinkle doesn't show as much.

You mean you can't move your muscles?

A doctor trained in the use of Botox™ will inject small amounts of Botox™ into the muscle. Only the treated muscle can't move.

What happens over time?

Botox™ works for about four months. As the muscle returns to normal, you will see the wrinkle again.

Are there any side effects?

Side effects may include:

- Droopy eyelids, which can last for a few weeks
- Feeling like you have the flu
- Headache and upset stomach
- Risk of botulism (a life or death illness that makes it hard for a person to move the arms and legs or to breathe) is low with Botox™, if used the right way

REMEMBER- Botox™ is a drug, not a cosmetic.



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What should I do if I want to try Botox™?

- Ask about how Botox™ could help or hurt you.
- Make sure your doctor is trained in the use of Botox™.
- Make sure you get treatment in a doctor's office or clinic.
- **Botox™ parties are not safe. Never share a tube of Botox™.**
- Emergency equipment should be on hand in case of a problem.
- Do not use if you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant.
- Do not use if you are breast feeding.
- Tell your doctor if you are taking antibiotics.
- Tell your doctor if you have any problems with nerves or muscles.

What else should I know about Botox™?

- Botox™ is only approved to treat wrinkles between the eyebrows.
- Botox™ is only approved for people 18-65 years old. It has not been tested in other age groups.

FDA Office of Women's Health <http://www.fda.gov/womens>

To Learn More:

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

http://www.fda.gov/fdac/Features/2002/402_botox.html
<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/ANSWERS/2002/ANS01147.html>

American Academy of Dermatology

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