

Botox Injection

Botulinum toxin is a neurotoxic protein produced by the bacterium *Clostridium Botulinum*. It is used in minute doses to treat painful muscle spasms and as a cosmetic treatment. It is sold under the brand name Botox and has been safely used for over 20 years. It is a much used treatment for many eye disorders.

Botox is proven effective in treating blepharospasm, an involuntary, sometimes debilitating condition in which the eyelids close involuntarily and the eyebrows twitch. An injection of a very small quantity of botulinum into the muscles around the eyes relaxes the muscles in the eyelids so that they will not contract or twitch. For those with severe spasms, the use of Botox may mean the difference between normal vision and functional blindness. An injection usually works for several months but will slowly wear off and need to be repeated.

Botox treatment has also proven to be very beneficial for hemifacial spasm, a twitching of the eyelid muscles and muscles around the mouth on one side of the face.

Botulinum is a very successful treatment with few side effects. Slight bruising and redness around the injection site are temporary. Drooping of the eyelids, double vision or dryness of the eye occur rarely but usually subside as the injection wears off.