

**Fairfield County Plastic Surgery**

**Botulinum Toxin Injections**

**CONSENT FOR SURGERY/ PROCEDURE or TREATMENT**

Patient name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. I hereby authorize Dr. Laurence Kirwan M.D., Dr. Rick Rosen M.D. or Lisa Topham RN to perform Botulinum Toxin Injections to my - frown lines, crows feet, forehead.

2. I consent to the administration of such local anesthetics considered necessary or advisable. I understand that all forms of anesthesia involves risk and the possibility of complications, injury, and sometimes death.

3. I acknowledge that no guarantee has been given by anyone as to the results that may be obtained.

- 4. IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO ME IN A WAY THAT I UNDERSTAND:
  - a. THE ABOVE TREATMENT OR PROCEDURE TO BE UNDERTAKEN
  - b. THERE MAY BE ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES OR METHODS OF TREATMENT
  - c. THERE ARE RISKS TO THE PROCEDURE OR TREATMENT PROPOSED

Infection / Bleeding with bruising/ Recurrence of expression lines / Reaction, local or systemic to medication. / temporary drooping of upper eyelid.

5. I understand that it can take four to five days to see the effect of the medication and as long as three weeks and that the results usually lasts for 4—6 months and must be repeated. Sometimes the effect of the injections may last for a shorter time.

6. I understand that Botlunim toxin injections are not approved by the FDA for removal of expression lines.

7. I have read the attached information sheet entitled "Botulinum Toxin Injections" from the ASAPS.

<b>I CONSENT TO THE TREATMENT OR PROCEDURE AND THE ABOVE LISTED ITEMS (1 - 7). I AM SATISFIED WITH THE EXPLANATION.</b>	
_____ Patient or Person Authorized to Sign for Patient	
Date _____	Witness _____

**BOTULINUM TOXIN INJECTIONS**

Botulinum toxin is perhaps best known as the cause of food poisoning but, in fact, has a history of medical applications. Beginning in the 1970s and '80s, it was used in the treatment of conditions such as weak eye muscles, involuntary spasmodic winking, other spasms of the face and neck, as well as facial asymmetry from nerve paralysis. Today, botulinum toxin has a new role in aesthetic surgery for the temporary treatment of frown lines, forehead furrows, "crow's feet," lines, and even nasal muscles (to decrease the flaring of nostrils). Aesthetic plastic surgeons have found that the type of lines and wrinkles that respond best to botulinum toxin injections are those caused by the muscles -- specifically those muscles that are repeatedly over-contracted during facial expressions such as frowning or squinting. At the present time, the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS) maintains that botulinum toxin injections for aesthetic purposes appear to be a safe and effective modality. Patients, who show early signs of aging, as well as those who may not be suitable candidates for more extensive facial aesthetic surgery, may be good candidates for this procedure. If facial surgery is elected, botulinum toxin injections may also be used as an adjunct, enhancing the result.

**What is botulinum toxin?**

Although there are several different types of toxins produced by the bacterium Clostridium botulinum, only one (type A) is commercially available (under the trade names of Botox® or Dysport®). The

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substance is purified and processed to a freeze-dried state. It is reconstituted with a saline solution immediately before use.

### How it works

The botulinum toxin blocks the transmission of impulses from the nerve cells to the muscle. This causes a temporary muscle weakening. By selectively interfering with the muscle's ability to contract, thereby reducing excessive contractions, existing lines are smoothed out over time and future lines may be prevented. The vertical forehead creases that develop between the eyes as well as the horizontal lines on the forehead were the first aesthetic areas to be treated by plastic surgeons with botulinum toxin injections. After the procedure, these lines will be improved at rest, and frowning will no longer create as deep a furrow. Despite anecdotal reports that injections of botulinum toxin in the lower face and neck muscle (platysma) may provide temporary improvement in the appearance of sagging jowls and loose skin in these areas, there are no supporting controlled scientific studies. Currently, the treatment recommended for these visible signs of aging is a facelift. Some surgeons speculate that botulinum toxin injections may actually delay degenerative changes; however, as yet there are no long-term scientific data available.

**Injecting botulinum toxin.** The procedure is performed with the patient in a sitting position. The patient should maintain an upright position for about four hours until the toxin attaches to and acts upon the nerve-muscle connection. During the injection, which is performed with a tiny needle, the patient is asked to contract the muscles in the area being treated so that the surgeon can determine the proper location for injection. The diluted toxin, in most cases, is injected directly into the muscle.

### Duration of effect

The effects of the botulinum toxin are usually noted within 24 to 48 hours after injection. On average, they last for approximately four months (range, one to five months). Therefore, improvements are temporary and injections may be repeated to maintain the desired effect. Some surgeons believe that the duration of muscle "relaxation" is cumulative and lasts longer with each treatment, although there are no supporting scientific data. In some case studies, a small percentage of patients are reported to experience no improvement at all following the injections.

### Possible risks and side effects

To date, no systemic complications associated with botulinum toxin injections have been documented. As with all biologic products, there is a rare possibility of an allergic reaction. Among the most common side effects are local numbness, swelling, bruising, or a burning sensation during injection. Headaches or nausea may also occur. These are usually temporary and typically disappear within a few hours. Bruising and swelling may persist for several days. There have been cases of mild

to moderate drooping of one or both eyelids, which usually lasts about two weeks. A reduced blinking reflex causing corneal exposure and ulceration is a more serious concern and, although temporary, can last for several months. These problems may occur as a result of inaccurate injection of the toxin. Currently, there are no known long-term effects of repeated botulinum toxin injections.

Other safety considerations. Taking certain medications (specific antibiotics, for example) may increase the potency of the botulinum toxin injections. Therefore, patients should provide a full disclosure to their surgeon of all medications they are taking.

Pregnant or nursing women should discuss undergoing this procedure with their surgeon. Currently, it is not known whether injection of botulinum toxin has any effect on a fetus or whether it is found in breast milk.

The American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS) is an organization devoted to education and research in aesthetic (cosmetic) plastic surgery. Its members are plastic surgeons certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery who have met additional educational and professional requirements set forth by ASAPS to maintain the highest standard of practice.

I have read and understand the above. I am taking the following medications.

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Patient, Parent Or Guardian If Applicable

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**I am not pregnant nor is there a possibility of my being pregnant at this time.**

**Patient's Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Initials \_\_\_\_\_