

Wrinkle Reduction/Botulinum Toxin Type A Overview

How does wrinkle reduction work?

Our facial expressions change because the muscles in the face contract or relax. This is caused by the brain sending a signal via our nerve endings that we want to, for example, frown or laugh. When botulinum toxin is injected into a specific muscle it blocks the signal from the nerve to the muscles in the face. This means that the nerve ending cannot tell the muscle to move.

After botulinum toxin injections, your skin around the area which has been treated will look smooth and less wrinkled; but do not worry, the rest of your face will not be affected. Botulinum toxin allows the untreated areas of your face to move as normal and you will still be able to laugh, smile and frown, but with less wrinkling of the skin in the areas treated.

After a while, most patients will notice that the lines and wrinkles around their treated areas will continue to become less deep and pronounced. This is a result of the botulinum toxin as the new skin has a chance to grow without being repeatedly creased. Hence, it appears to be smoother on the surface because it has not been creased by constant muscle activity.

The most common areas treated are the the horizontal forehead lines, vertical frown lines between the eyebrows and crows feet (or laughter lines).

There are only a few brands of Botulinum Toxin Type A, and be.U mostly uses Bocouture® and Xeomin®. Both are produced by Merz - an independent German pharmaceutical company. It is clinically proven to give consistent, targeted results that are visible within just two to three days, with effects that can last for up to four months.

Unlike other available neuromodulators, Bocouture® is free from complexing proteins, which means it may be less likely to trigger an immune response and makes it very well-tolerated immediately and in the long term

The procedure

First, the area to be injected will be cleaned with an antiseptic wipe. Then, using a disposable syringe, tiny amounts of Bocouture® will be injected into several points in the agreed area.

For your first treatment, often patients will just have one area treated (eg frown lines) so that they can become comfortable with the process and I can see how you respond to your first injections.

How long will it take to see the effects and how long will the results last?

Normally, you should start to see the effects in 3-14 days from treatment, but in some extreme instances, it can take up to 21 days. The effect after the initial injection lasts between 3-5 months for most patients. You will notice a gradual fading of the effect, and at this stage can return for a repeat treatment, perhaps 2-3 times a year if you like the effect.

Regular treatments prevent the skin from creasing and can keep new wrinkles from forming as well as smoothing out the existing ones. Clinical trials have shown that over time the duration of the effect increases, resulting in less treatments being needed to maintain the result.

How long do I need to take off work?

No time at all. The treatment is quick and you can normally go about your usual activities straight afterwards. So you can even get it done during your lunch hour!