

# Botulinum Toxin and Facial Filler Injections

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This material will help you understand the basics of botulinum toxin and facial filler injections.

## **What are botulinum toxin and facial fillers?**

Botulinum toxin type A (Botox, Dysport, Xeomin) is an injectable medication that causes the muscles to relax and weaken. In low doses, this effect can be used to improve the appearance of lines and wrinkles. Facial fillers are a non-surgical facial rejuvenation treatment that can be used along with botulinum toxin, or alone. They work by restoring volume underneath the skin. This can be used to improve wrinkles, creases, frown lines, and hollowness below the eyes. Common facial fillers include hyaluronic acid, collagen, and synthetic microspheres.

## **How are the injections administered?**

Both procedures are done in a regular exam room or clinic procedure room. Your doctor will use a small needle to inject small volumes of botulinum toxin into the muscles around your eyelids and brows. Each injection takes a few seconds and is only mildly uncomfortable.

Facial fillers are injected directly into the area of concern. Your doctor may use ice, anesthetic cream, or a numbing injection to help lessen any discomfort during the procedure.

## **What should I expect after the injections?**

You can resume normal activities right away after receiving your injections. If you received botulinum toxin injections, be careful not to rub the injection

sites. This may make the toxin spread to other areas causing muscle weakness

### **When should I notice results?**

You should notice results within seven to ten days if you receive botulinum toxin injections. The effect of botulinum toxin typically lasts 3-4 months.

You should notice the effect of facial fillers right away. The effect will last anywhere from 6-12 months depending on the type of filler used.

### **Are there complications after having injections of botulinum toxin or facial fillers?**

Botulinum toxin and facial filler injections are safe treatments. The most common side effects are swelling and bruising. Both should fade naturally. Botulinum toxin injections rarely cause side effects such as nearby muscle weakness, asymmetry, or a droopy eyelid or lip. Facial fillers also rarely cause asymmetry. There have been reports of vision impairment and dying tissue (tissue necrosis) related to filler injections, but this is very rare.

### **Who do I contact if I have questions?**

If you have questions or concerns, contact our office.

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