

Botox to the Rescue

by Dr. Cheryl Perlis



Yes, the drug smoothes wrinkles, but it also treats several medical conditions

Botox therapy initially was approved by the Federal Drug Administration

in 1989 for treatment of crossed eyes and uncontrollable eye blinking associated with dystonia for patients' age 12 and older. It was used for cosmetic purposes when patients with spastic eye disorder discovered the wrinkles near their eyes disappeared. By 2000, Botox was approved to treat cervical dystonia in adults to decrease the severity of abnormal head positions and neck pain. Other medical conditions this popular treatment is taking care of range from migraine headaches, bladder control, multiple sclerosis and even cerebral palsy in children as young as 2 years old.

Banish Overactive Sweating with Botox

In 2004, the drug received approval for **hyperhidrosis**, excessive underarm sweating. Hyperhidrosis can be a very embarrassing condition. I have seen patients who have perspired so severely before a casting call or a job interview that they have to change their clothes several times.

For those of you who don't know, Hyperhidrosis is a condition with unknown causes. Excessive sweating can be genetic and a basic malfunction in the sympathetic nervous system, which controls energy expenditure, especially in stressful situations. As you know, sweating is a normal body function needed to regu-

late body temperature. However, in those with Hyperhidrosis, the sympathetic nervous system fails to regulate body temperature.

Sometimes, there are underlying medical conditions that can cause this problem. Usually the condition begins at adolescence and is life-long. Both Men and Women are equally affected. But, now with Botox, I see my patients get relief from 9 to 12 months.

Capture the balanced beauty of Botox

The other increasingly popular use for Botox I see in my office is for the use on people who have "**hyper-gums**", which is where the gums extend below the lip line when smiling. I inject a very small amount of Botox near the nose to drop the lip and the results are amazing! I had one patient tell me that this past holiday was the first holiday in her whole life that she actually smiled in her family photos.

Of course, a lot of us know that the most common use for Botox is for relaxing and eliminating the frown, or what most people call the "11"s or the angry look between the eyes. Along with this, I always accompany it with an eyebrow lift, which gives the face an overall balanced look and opens up the eyes.

So, as we move forward, and the fear about Botox lessens, it will be very interesting to see what new therapeutic or cosmetic purpose this product will deliver.

Dr. Perlis continues her involvement in the field of obstetrics and gynecology in addition to her new beauty enhancements through science and technology. I am excited about these procedures and want to help you to look and feel your best. If you would like more information, please call my office for a personal consultation at 847-362-2449.