

Dysport® is a commercial name for Botulinum Toxin A, the muscle paralysing agent produced by bacteria known as Clostridium botulinum. It has been an unwanted product of poorly preserved foods and was produced as a biological warfare agent in the past.

Despite its extreme toxicity in its natural form, when greatly diluted and injected into a muscle it has the ability to locally paralyse that muscle for prolonged periods (by blocking the nerve impulse to it).

Botulinum toxin's safety and effectiveness in neurological and eye disorders featuring muscle spasm has been clearly established since it was first used in humans for these purposes in 1977, and in 1989 the FDA and the USA formally approved the drug.

Its cosmetic usefulness for the correction of frown lines was first reported by Professor Jean Carruthers in Vancouver, Canada in 1992 after a patient being treated with Botox® (the US produced Botulinum toxin A) for blepharospasm (a disabling muscle-twitching disorder of the eyelids) reported that after each Botox® injection her frown lines dramatically improved.

In New Zealand Botox® and Dysport® have received approval by Medsafe for the treatment of blepharospasm, facial muscle spasm and torticollis. In more recent times both have won approval also to be used for glabellar frown line treatment purposes.

WHAT MAKES DYSPORT® SO GOOD?

Dysport® has a number of unique properties. These are:

1. Its site of action is specific.

Dysport® affects only the ability of the muscle to contract by blocking the motor nerve action. It has no effect on the sensory nerve fibres and therefore produces no numbness or other disturbance of sensation.

2. It has a long duration of action.

Initially most people require a repeat treatment every 3 months to maintain the effect. However, after 3 to 5 treatments the effect seems to last longer, we find, in about half the people we treat and typically a repeat treatment is required less often for them.

3. IT IS EXTREMELY SAFE.

Dysport® has a huge safety margin. The receptor binding is specific. The high density of the receptors ensures local uptake in the areas treated. Cosmetic doses are far less than previous large muscle therapeutic ones.

USES OF DYSPORT®

1. MEDICAL DISORDERS featuring muscle spasms:

- **Blepharospasm** (eyelid twitching disorder)
- **Facial Twitching disorders**
- **Squints**
- **Nystagmus**
- **Miscellaneous neurological muscle spasms**

2. COSMETIC APPLICATIONS

Dysport® has proven effective in the correction of those facial wrinkles and furrows caused by the repetitive contract of the facial expression muscles. It is no use in wrinkles caused by biological ageing or sun damage.

Relaxation of the underlying muscle by Dysport® injection will cause the line to either improve or, in early cases, totally disappear.

WHICH LINES ARE SUITABLE FOR DYSPORT® INJECTIONS?

Although theoretically any wrinkle caused by muscular contraction can be improved with Dysport®, there are some lines which are better avoided because paralysing the underlying muscle, although improving the wrinkles, will also produce an unwanted effect e.g. Injecting around the mouth will probably cause a flatness of the upper lip or droopiness of the mouth.

Therefore the wrinkles most suitable for Dysport® injections are those that are caused by muscles which have no other useful action. Such lines are:

- **the vertical “frown” lines between the eyebrows**
- **the “crow's feet” at the sides of the eyes**
- **horizontal forehead lines**
- **the horizontal neck lines (although requires a large number of doses)**
- **some lines about the mouth area**

OTHER BENEFITS OF DYSPORT®

With a variation on one of the most common treatments a reasonable browlift can be achieved elevating the outer ends of the eyebrows.

Excessive sweating of the underarm area, palms and soles of the feet can be controlled with small multiple injections of Dysport®. This is quite expensive though due to the amount used each time.

HOW IS IT DONE?

A very fine needle is used to inject a tiny amount of Dysport® solution directly into the muscle or just adjacent to it. Apart from a very mild sting for a few seconds there is no pain, numbness or generalised after-effects.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE-EFFECTS?

Dysport® is extremely safe and there have been no serious side-effects when administered by registered medical practitioners.

Occasionally, slight swelling, and/or bruising may last for several days after the injections. Make-up can be applied to the treated area to cover any bruising.

Very slight droopiness (in the order of about 1mm) of the upper eyelid occurs in about 2% of people having their frown lines injected. In

such instances the degree of droopiness is extremely slight, not easily noticed by others and only temporary, usually lasting about 5 weeks and then recovering fully.

INSTRUCTIONS AFTER TREATMENT

- **If bruising appears use a little pressure and ice.** It is unusual.
- **Generally nothing special.** It would be best to avoid infecting the area by being careful what you apply to the needle holes for the rest of the day. Excessive rubbing of the area for about one and a half hours afterwards is probably best avoided to prevent massaging the agent into unintended muscle areas.
- **Continue your daily routine and activities.**
- **Dysport® usually takes 3-5 days to take effect.** Do not be disappointed if you have not seen an effect even after 1 weeks as the effect will take longer than usual in some people. However all patients will see their effect within 2 weeks.
- **Make an appointment for 3 months time for your next injection.** Most patients require a repeat injection every 3 months initially. As mentioned some will need less frequent injections as more treatments are done.



DYSPORT®

Botulinum Toxin
Wrinkle Therapy

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