



wrinkle relaxers

introduction

A purified protein is carefully and skillfully injected into specific sites to cause temporary muscle weakness. As such, it's an excellent treatment for so-called 'dynamic' wrinkles like crow's feet, which radiate from the outer corners of the eyes, horizontal lines on the forehead and frown lines between the eyes – all are created over time by contractions of the muscles that attach to the deeper layers of the skin in these areas.

Originally, the use of this protein was confined to medical applications, such as treating uneven muscle pull of the eye (strabismus). However, for more than 20 years now it's proved effective in decreasing facial expression lines, and is also used to raise lowered eyebrows.

Recently, too, this protein was approved as a treatment for excessive sweating from beneath the arms, or from the hands or feet. It works by blocking the nerves to the cells that produce the moisture, so less sweat is produced.

The procedure for relaxing wrinkles couldn't be simpler. A few drops of the product are injected into the muscle that needs to be weakened, via a tiny, diabetic-type needle. Afterwards, you feel a slight sting for a few seconds but applying an ice pack to the area can reduce this. No anaesthetic is required and there's no 'down time' from normal activities. Initially, you may notice a slight redness around the injection site but that's easily covered using a light, mineral-based makeup.

Despite what you may have heard, wrinkle relaxation, when done skillfully, won't leave your face expressionless, because only tiny amounts are injected into very specific areas. Most of the facial muscles remain completely unaffected. Once introduced into the muscle, the product must be absorbed into the nerve cells, so it generally takes five to seven days to notice a difference. In fact, the maximum effect may not be seen for up to two weeks. After the initial treatment, the softening effect on the wrinkles lasts between two and four months, but after several treatments may last longer. A regular maintenance program prevents new wrinkles from forming and contributes to a more youthful appearance in both men and women.

Used in such tiny concentrations, the wrinkle relaxing protein is extremely safe. If any side-effects are experienced, they'll be temporary and related mainly to the injection site. That said, it is not recommended for use in anyone with neuromuscular disorders or in women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Should you opt for this treatment, your individual requirements, as well as any slight risks involved with the procedure, will be discussed with you beforehand.



frequently asked questions

Q. Is the wrinkle relaxing protein safe?

A. The safety of this product is well established. Indeed, a review of clinical trials that ran from 1986 to 2003 found it not only safe but also effective and tolerable across a broad spectrum of therapeutic uses. Today, more than 1000 clinical studies and review articles have been published on the safety and efficacy of the protein used at faceforward, and it's been approved in more than 70 countries. In none of those countries has there been any evidence of long-term safety concerns with the protein.

Q. Are there any side-effects?

A. All medicines can have side-effects. However, those associated with the muscle relaxing protein are generally mild to moderate and purely temporary. They can include headaches, droopy eyelids, localised pain and/or swelling at the injection site, facial pain, redness, local muscle weakness, bruising, skin tightness, numbness or a feeling of pins and needles, and nausea.

Q. How long do the effects of the treatment last?

A. When administered by a trained doctor, the protein relaxes the muscles that cause wrinkles, improving a person's appearance for up to three or four months.

Q. If the muscles are relaxed for four months, does that mean the muscle relaxing protein stays in my body all that time?

A. Although the effects can last up to four months, the muscle relaxing protein is excreted from the body rapidly.

Q. Will having this treatment cause more wrinkles to form?

A. The treatment relaxes the over-active muscles that trigger wrinkle formation but does not cause more wrinkles to form.

Q. Will my wrinkles look worse when the treatment wears off?

A. No, the effects of the wrinkle relaxing protein wear off very gradually and, as they do, your lines slowly reappear but are no more pronounced than before.