

Q

**I have been to several physician's offices for Botox injections and found that some treatments seem to last longer than others. Why is this?**

A

There are many explanations for why injections last for variable periods of time. Most commonly, each individual's response to the medicine varies. Some are less sensitive than others and their muscle cells recover more quickly. Another reason may have to do with the amount of Botox that is injected. Physicians vary in their dilution of the medicine. It is important to ask your physician how many units of Botox are being used and into which areas they are being injected in order to compare two physicians' results. There may be variability of potency of the medicine from lot to lot although the manufacturer has tried to standardize the preparation of the medicine. Also, the Botox is very sensitive and if it is not handled properly by the physician's office, it may lose some or all of its potency. Finally, Botox injection is not as simple as it seems. The wrinkles result from actions of the muscles underneath the skin. A physician must be familiar with the complex anatomy and function of these muscles in order to know how and where to place the Botox effectively. With repeated treatments a patient's needs will change. You are more likely to get more effective treatment in the office of a physician who is familiar with facial anatomy, has had extensive experience injecting Botox and has strict protocols in reconstituting and handling it. I have extensive knowledge of the facial muscles and operate on them every week. Our office was the first in Roanoke to offer Botox for the treatment of facial wrinkles and we have over fourteen years' experience doing this. I personally reconstitute the Botox and handle all injections myself. The vast majority of my patients are happy with both the action and duration of their injections.

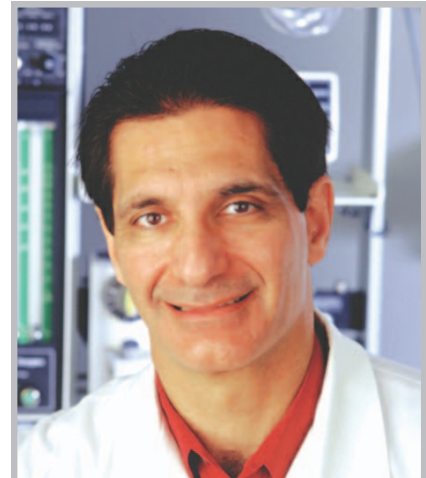
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