

Botox Vs Dysport – The Same, Only Different

There are many ways that people choose to treat lines and wrinkles, and one of them is to use an injectable treatment, such as Botox. However, you may have also heard of Dysport and are wondering about the differences between Dysport and Botox. This is a concern shared by many people, because Dysport, compared to Botox, is a relatively new injectable quite similar to Botox in its properties. But, although they are both derived from Botulinum Toxin, there are also several differences between the two that you may want to consider before deciding which one to use.

The main similarity between Dysport and Botox is the way in which they work to reduce the appearance of wrinkles. Both are Botulinum Toxin type A proteins that work by blocking the nerve impulses to muscles at the injection site, temporarily paralyzing overactive muscles of the face that cause frown lines, forehead lines and crow's feet. When these muscles become relaxed, the appearance of wrinkles on the forehead and around the eyes are drastically reduced, and because Botox and Dysport both last for weeks, both products prevent the wrinkles from becoming deeper.

But what are the differences between Dysport and Botox? and which works better? These questions are answered by Dr Allen Rezai, internationally renowned Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon and specialist in both surgical and non-surgical treatments, who explains that *“Botox and Dysport are both Botulinum Toxin A but are made by different companies. Botox has been available for longer, but both work in a similar fashion. Both show similar efficacy and side effects, and in most double-blind clinical studies both the patient and the doctor were unable to tell the results apart. Dysport may be slightly less expensive, but not to such an extent as to make any significant difference cost-wise to the patient.*

“There has been much discussion amongst doctors concerning the differences between Dysport and Botox. What has been found is that they have slightly different properties but the differences are minimal.” says Dr Rezai.

“Some clinical studies,” continues Dr Rezai, *“show that Dysport diffuses a bit further from the injection point than Botox: one to three centimeters compared to Botox’s one centimeter. The advantage here may be that you can treat larger areas, such as the forehead, and also the underarms for excessive sweating, with fewer needle sticks. However, unless the doctor is an experienced injector with good knowledge of the complex musculature around the eyes and between the eyebrows, the Dysport could spread into unwanted areas causing unpleasant side effects.”*



Botox and Dysport are also both employed in the same way for cosmetic purposes. Dr Rezai explains

that *“Dosing is different for Botox and Dysport, but the procedure is the same. The product is injected with a very fine needle into the area being treated and, as the needle is so fine, any pain associated with the injections is minimal. No sedation or local anaesthetic is needed and patients can resume normal daily activity, including driving, immediately following the treatment. There might be slight temporary redness and bruising of the skin at the sites of the injections. These are minor and of short duration, but otherwise there will be no visible signs of treatment.”*

According to Dr Rezai, the effects of both Botox and Dysport are temporary and wear off naturally over time. Some believe that the effect of Dysport lasts longer than that of Botox as fewer antibodies are formed against it. However, that being said, some clinical trials indicate that Botox has longer lasting results.

As to results following treatment, Dr Rezai explains that *“Visible results of Botox treatment are usually seen within four to seven days. However, Dysport may begin to work one to two days earlier. This may be an advantage if you have an event to attend a couple of days later and need a really quick fix; otherwise, this isn't of great practical importance. Depending on a person's lifestyle and how their muscles react to the treatment, the effects of both Botox and Dysport may last from three to six months and the treatment should NOT be repeated more than two to a maximum of three times per year.”*

Dr Rezai does, however, point out that there are a very small number of patients, about 2%, who either have pre-existing antibodies to Botox or who develop such antibodies following repeated treatments, which render it ineffective. Unfortunately there is no way of identifying this small group of people beforehand. However, people who have become "resistant" to Botox may respond successfully to Dysport.

With regard to risks and side-effects associated with Botox and Dysport treatment, Dr Rezai explains that *“Because they are both derived from the Botulinum Toxin, the side effects are also quite similar. Provided the treatment is carried out by an appropriately qualified and experienced doctor, complications related to Botox or Dysport are relatively rare. In some cases a temporary weakness of nearby muscles or the drooping of an eyelid can arise. The risk of any side effects depends on the muscles injected. However, because Botox and Dysport treatment is completely reversible, any side effects involving excessive weakness will be temporary, lasting only days or weeks. Potential patients should be aware, however, that this treatment is not suitable for use in those with certain muscular disorders, nor for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding.”*

In summary, Dr Rezai concludes that *“Choosing to have Botox or Dysport is the preference of the patient and the doctor. Ultimately, it is far more important who is injecting your Botox or Dysport, than which of these two products you are using. It is the technique used to inject the product that matters. Botox and Dysport mistakes and bad results are made by people, not the product.”*

For more information concerning Botox, Dysport, and other types of Facial Rejuvenation solutions provided by **Elite Plastic & Cosmetic Surgery Group**, or to book a Consultation, please visit their [website](#) or call **+971 4 431 2396**.