



There's a new
kid in town to
combat wrinkles ...

Dysport vs. Botox

Until recently, there was only one botulinum toxin, the wrinkle fighter from Allergan. Botox Cosmetic was approved by the FDA and introduced in 2002. Recently, in May 2009, the FDA approved Dysport, the first new botulinum toxin since Botox. Similar to Botox, this new line buster is a modified version of the same ingredient found in Botox that is designed to inhibit facial muscle contractions that over time lead to smile lines around the eyes, forehead furrows and frown lines. While the initial FDA studies were conducted at only a few of the largest practices in the country, we have closely followed the progress of Dysport through the various phases of development.

Studies involving Dysport showed that it was effective in eliminating wrinkles. Dysport should, in theory, fight wrinkles faster because it is less encumbered by blocking proteins surrounding the active ingredient. This should also result in a weaker immune response by the body, and thus last longer.

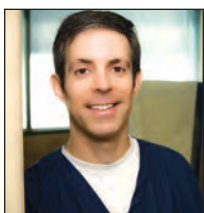
Dysport is not injected at the same unit dose of Botox. While typically it takes 20-25 units of Botox to treat the lines between the eyebrows, the FDA has approved a dose of 50 units of Dysport to treat this same area. Practitioners choosing to use Dysport will face a steep learning curve as they figure out the correct dosing to use for different areas they may desire to treat.

Some clinical studies have noted that Dysport "spreads" more than Botox. This can be a good thing or a bad thing. For treatment of areas like the forehead or armpits, this is good in that fewer injections will be needed. Fewer injections mean less likelihood for swelling, bruising or potential patient discomfort. It is bad in that unless the physician is an experienced injector who has thorough knowledge of the more complex musculature (around the eyes, between the eyebrows), the Dysport could spread into unwanted areas causing unwanted side effects such as blurry vision or droopy eyebrows.

Results from Botox last about 3-4 months. Dysport has been used safely in other countries such as Brazil and countries in Europe. Dysport can last up to six months and also can start working sooner, taking, at most, just two days to take effect instead of the three to seven days you have to wait to see results from Botox. The longer lasting effects may make Dysport more affordable.

To date, no specific safety "red flags" have arisen about Dysport. Specifically, there have not been increased reports of allergies, or infections to any significant degree.

As marketplace conditions dictate, a little healthy competition is always a good thing. The introduction of Dysport may induce a little pricing competition that may benefit both patients and physicians alike. Additionally, there is new research and development going on all the time and I believe this will not be the last new product of its kind you will hear about.



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