

## **Princeton Dermatology Associates**

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### **Botox® for Hyperhidrosis FAQs**

#### **Q. What is Hyperhidrosis?**

A. Hyperhidrosis is excessive sweating usually in the underarms or palms. Approximately, 2% of the population experiences this problem. Botox can decrease perspiration by 50% or more with each treatment.

#### **Q. I have heard of something called Botulism. I understand it is a very serious illness. Is Botox® related to Botulism?**

A. This is a very important question. The active ingredient in Botox is the same one, which, in much large amounts can cause Botulism. Knowing what Botulism is and how different it is from the way Botox works, will remove any concern you may have. Botulism poisoning, although rare, can occur if a person eats food, which is contaminated with the Clostridium Botulinum bacteria. This bacterium makes large amounts of toxin, which circulate throughout the body. This can lead to respiratory paralysis and is sometimes fatal. In one experiment with mice, the lethal dose is about 3,000 units in one injection. However, because a small number of units of Botox are used (typically under 200 units), it can be injected into specific areas to reduce perspiration very safely. Other areas and functions are not affected. There was an instance in Florida where a physician impersonator injected adulterated botulism derivatives into 3 patients and himself leading to adverse effects. Dr. Kaufmann only uses real Botox so this would not be an issue. All drugs in common use would be harmful if given in large enough doses to affect the entire body. The most common is ASA, or Aspirin, which can lead to death if taken in large quantities. Given in the appropriate way and the right amounts, medications are valuable allies in fighting diseases and suffering. Clinical studies of over 20 years have shown Botox to be effective and safe.

#### **Q. How do I know my doctor won't give me too much Botox®?**

A. The production of Botox is carefully controlled at every stage to ensure that it is safe for medical use. Dr. Kaufmann has been trained to administer it safely. He has been treating patients with Botox since 1992.

#### **Q. Are there patients who should not receive Botox®?**

A. Botox should not be given to pregnant women, nursing mothers, or people who have myasthenia gravis or muscle diseases.

#### **Q. Do Botox® injections hurt??**

A. When injected, Botox does not cause irritation or inflammation. Occasionally there may be a very mild sting. Often a topical anesthetic is prescribed to apply before the treatment for hyperhidrosis and

in the palm an anesthesia block is preformed prior to injections. The smallest possible disposable needle is used to minimize any discomfort.

**Q. Does Botox® interact with other drugs?**

A. It is always important to let your doctor know if you are taking any other drugs, specifically amino glycoside antibiotics. These types of antibiotics may increase the effect of Botox.

**Q. How long does Botox® take to work? How long does Botox® work? Will I need more injections?**

Experience tells us, it takes 7 to 10 days for most patients to see the effects. Some patients notice the effects in as few as 3 days. A recent study in the USA showed that Botox lasted from 3 to 8 months for upper facial wrinkling, in most patients it lasts 3 to 5 months. Yes, injections are performed to maintain a benefit over a long period of time often three times a year. The treatment can be performed for as long as is required. With continued treatments the effects are more lasting

**Q. Are there any side effects?**

A. Because of the small doses that are used for hyperhidrosis, no significant side effects have been reported. Patients sometimes have a feeling of transient weakness of the hand muscles when injected in the palms, however, this weakness is transient and disappears in a few days. The nerves of touch are unaffected. When much larger amounts of Botox (more than 10 times) are used for other muscle conditions, other transient mild symptoms may be noticed. In summary, Botox is safe.

**Q. Are there any disadvantages?**

A. The only disadvantage is the need for repeated injections. However, my patients have found that injections every 4 or 6 months are beneficial and do not adversely affect their time schedules.

**Q. Is it covered by insurance?**

A. *As Botox is approved by the FDA for Hyperhidrosis many insurance plans do cover the treatment as a medical treatment.*

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*If you would like more information on Botox®, please contact me,*  
**Dr. Roderick T. Kaufmann, Jr., at (609) 683-4999. Or come visit us at our offices conveniently located listed above.**