

# PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

## ANTIWRINKLE (BOTULINUM TOXIN TYPE-A)

Antiwrinkle products contain botulinum toxin type-A and most cosmetic treatments using these products are aimed at relaxing facial muscles. These treatments temporarily reduce and smooth frown lines and other wrinkles.

The 2 main brands available in Australia are both approved for the indication of moderate to severe glabellar lines (frown lines) as well as lateral canthal lines (crow's feet) in adults, however both products can be used to treat other areas of the face and neck. Treatment for migraines and hyperhidrosis (excessive sweating) are also possible and may have been discussed with your practitioner.

Both brands are combined with human serum albumin, which acts as a stabiliser. Albumin is routinely used in many vaccines such as the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine; chicken pox vaccine and others and there have been no reports of any infections transmitted from the albumin.

Initial results with antiwrinkle products are often not seen until 3 – 4 days following treatment and maximum effect may take 2 - 3 weeks for some individuals. The duration of effect lasts approximately 3 months but lessens over that time. Treatment effects are temporary and should be repeated 4 times a year for best results. Results will vary for each person and will depend on the dose administered as well as individual patient differences.

The most frequent side effect reported after treatment of the glabellar region is headache; other side effects may include discomfort, burning, itching, redness or bruising at the injection site, temporary drooping of the eyebrows or eyelids, double vision, dry eyes, nausea or flu-like symptoms. All side effects are temporary and, in the case of eyelid drooping, generally resolve spontaneously within 2 - 4 weeks.

Following treatment patients should be gentle if they need to touch the treated area. Direct pressure or massage should be avoided as this may cause the products to spread further than anticipated and increase the chance of untoward side effects such as drooping of the eyebrows or eyelids. Avoid exercise or any activities that would result in sweating including exposure to heat.

Antiwrinkle treatments are not recommended for pregnant or breast-feeding women, patients who have had a previous allergic reaction to botulinum toxin type-A or any ingredients in the products or patients with a medical condition of a neuro-muscular type such as myasthenia gravis. Treatments should not be administered if there is any sign of infection at the proposed injection site and caution should be exercised in patients taking blood thinning medication.