

Botox® to the Jaw Muscles

Botox® is used to relax overactive jaw muscles. Botox injections to the masseter and temporalis muscles temporarily and partially paralyze the muscle fibers, reducing your bite force/clenching. Administering Botox® takes only a few minutes, and the full effect should occur within 7 to 10 days. Over the next 3 months the effect will gradually fade and the muscle function will return. Botox® injections can be repeated every 3 months if desired. Repeated injections will result in atrophy/shrinking of the injected muscles. All medical procedures involve a certain amount of risks and it is important that you understand the associated risks. Although most patients do not experience the following complications, you should review them below.

Risks

- Bruising, pain, swelling, bleeding, inflammation, and infection at injection site – these can occasionally occur but are usually minimal and temporary.
- Headache.
- Involvement of nearby muscles of facial expression – this may result in temporary asymmetry of facial expressions.
- Allergic reaction – as with all medications, allergic and systemic anaphylactic reactions may occur, however, this is incredibly uncommon.
- Antibodies to Botulinum toxin – the body can produce neutralizing antibodies to botox, thus reducing its effectiveness with subsequent injections. This risk may increase with dosing done more frequently than every 12 weeks.

If you are receiving botox® injections for other reasons (i.e., neurology, cosmetics, etc.) please coordinate appointments, preferably all within 1 week of each other.

If you would like to schedule a return appt for botox® injection therapy (cannot inject sooner than 12 weeks from prior injections), please call **510-752-6821**.

