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Botox versus Dysport: *What's the difference?*

Both Dysport and Botox are forms of botulinum toxin type A, which is safe for use in humans to relax muscles and decrease movement. These products are known as "neuromodulators". Biologically and chemically, they are almost identical. Both products inject and act similarly, so patients are unlikely to perceive any clinical difference.

Dysport has only been available in the US available since Spring 2009, but it has been in direct competition with Botox internationally for many years prior to its US introduction.

We live in a society of brand recognition, and as Botox has been available for much longer in the US, many people are more comfortable using what they know. Allergan (the manufacturer of Botox) has spent much more in direct-to-consumer advertising with everything from TV commercials to print ads in major magazines to build their brand. The cost of advertising gets passed on to the end users.

Dysport has relied mainly of word of mouth referral of patient's satisfaction and physician's recommendation.

Similarites:

- *Both* have been in use for years and have a high safety profile.
- *Both* can be used on other parts of the face and body.
- *Both* Dysport and Botox must be injected every 3-6 months.
- *Both* show similar efficacy and side effects, and in most clinical studies, both the patient, and the doctor, were unable to tell the results apart.

Differences:

There has been much discussion amongst physicians about whether there are any *significant* differences between Botox and Dysport. Here are the main differences have been discussed:

- Dysport has a slightly quicker onset (2-5 days vs 4-7 days for Botox)
- Dysport diffuses more (i.e., spreads to a wider area). This can be an advantage in some areas of the face. It could be beneficial when treating a larger area, such as wide forehead wrinkles, and areas with thinner muscles, such as crows' feet. More diffusion can mean that fewer injections may be required to achieve the desired results, and fewer injections means less discomfort from the procedure.
- Dysport may be priced less than Botox in many offices.

Other than the above there have been no significant differences identified.

Ultimately, it is far more important who is injecting your Botox or Dysport, than which of these two products you are using. Don't forget, injection technique is more important than which product is injected!