

Botulinum toxin type A is a drug made from a toxin produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. It's the same toxin that causes a life-threatening type of food poisoning called [botulism](#). Doctors use it in small doses to treat health problems, including:

- Temporary smoothing of facial [wrinkles](#) and improving your appearance
- Severe underarm sweating
- Cervical dystonia - a neurological disorder that causes severe neck and shoulder muscle contractions
- Blepharospasm - uncontrollable blinking
- Strabismus - misaligned eyes
- Chronic migraine
- Overactive bladder

Botox injections work by weakening or paralyzing certain muscles or by blocking certain nerves. The effects last about three to twelve months, depending on what you are treating. The most common side effects are pain, swelling, or bruising at the injection site. You could also have flu-like symptoms, headache, and upset stomach. Injections in the face may also cause temporary drooping eyelids. You should not use Botulinum if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

<https://medlineplus.gov/botox.html>