



ALLERGAN SPECIAL

MAKEOVER MIRACLE

SAFE AND VERSATILE, BOTOX TREATMENTS ARE DEFINITELY GIVING CONVENTIONAL PLASTIC SURGERY A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY. WHAT'S MORE, THERE IS HARDLY ANY DOWN TIME AND RESULTS ARE QUICK

These days, women who want fresher looking eyes, more lifted brows or chiselled jaw lines have it easy. They can choose simpler and non-invasive procedures such as injections of Botox or a filler over a facelift or jaw reduction surgeries. "Botox is a remarkably safe treatment. Minute quantities are used when treating wrinkles, and hence the incidence of side effects is extremely low. Injection related reactions, such as tiny pin-prick marks and mild redness, are common but resolve by themselves in a few hours," says Dr. Siew Tuck Wah, a medical consultant with The Sloane Clinic.

"Women commonly request for Botox treatments for the upper face to remove frown lines between the eye brows, the crow's feet, the under-eye wrinkles and the forehead. Other commonly treated areas in our practice include the jaw area to contour the face and make it sharper, and the chin area to eliminate the unsightly dimpling appearance," he adds.

But not only is Botox used for aesthetic purposes, it actually can be used to weaken any group of muscles temporarily. "At The Sloane Clinic, we also perform Botox to alleviate medical conditions such as migraine, excessive sweating of the underarms (hyperhidrosis) and nocturnal teeth grinding (bruxism)," says Dr. Siew. However results are not immediate. "The effects of Botox treatment will start to show in about three days, but maximal results are only achieved after 10 days to two weeks. Therefore, patients typically come in for a review two weeks after the treatment," he adds.

COST AND PROCEDURES

The market rate is quite standard for Botox treatments at aesthetic centres. "At The Sloane Clinic, it will cost

\$8250 to \$81,000 to rejuvenate the eye area, depending on how extensive the treatment is," says Dr. Siew.

"We try to ensure our treatments are as comfortable as possible," he adds. After assessment by the doctor, the nurse will wash the patient's face. She will then apply a layer of anesthetic cream to the area to be treated. After 15 minutes, the doctor will introduce the Botox into the relevant areas via tiny needles. The procedure is virtually painless, and takes less than 10 minutes.

Even for first time patients, the experience is usually very pleasurable, and the results are good and yet subtle. "The results of Botox are very natural. First time users may be surprised at how relaxed and refreshed they look all the time. Performed correctly by the hands of an experienced physician, they should feel completely normal aside from very slight aching at the injected area if any," assures Dr. Siew.

"At The Sloane Clinic, we also use FDA-approved hyaluronic acid fillers that are safe. Hyaluronic acid is a naturally occurring material in our body. It is degraded by our body over time, and generally the effect can last 12 to 18 months depending on the area treated," says Dr. Tan Ying Chien, consultant plastic surgeon with The Sloane Clinic.

The areas women generally like to have fillers in are: the lower eyelid area, nasolabial fold (the line running from the side of the nose to the corner of the mouth), the nose, the lips and lately, the breasts. "These are office procedures that come with no or minimal downtime. Pain and discomfort is minimal. Of course one gets used to the treatment with subsequent sessions. It only takes a few minutes for treatments on the face area, and 30 - 45 minutes for the breasts. Improvements are immediate, but final results may not be seen till two weeks after treatment," he adds.



With more than five years experience in aesthetic care, Dr. Siew Tuck Wah (far left) and Dr. Tan Ying Chien (left) are from The Sloane Clinic.

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