



AESTHETIC AND COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY (LASERS SEPARATE CATEGORY)

## NEUROMODULATORS TO THE FACE - HOW TO AVOID AND TO TREAT THE COMPLICATIONS

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Botulinum toxin type A (BoNT-A) is considered the best treatment for dynamic wrinkles, being a simple, safe, and highly effective therapeutic modality.

The complications and adverse effects are usually transitory and, in most of the cases, technique-dependent. More recently, it was demonstrated that some residual effects occur, after long term use of BoNT-A. A careful clinical evaluation of every patient together with the proper knowledge of muscle anatomy and selection of the techniques are very important to obtain the best results and to avoid side effects.

The most common short-term complications after BoNT-A injections include pain, edema, ecchymosis, purpura, short-term hyperesthesia, short-term headaches, and seldom, prolonged migraines. Systemic adverse effects are rare when proper doses of approved products are used, as recommended by the consensus for cosmetic purposes.

In the upper face, one of the most feared complications is the transitory eyelid ptosis after glabellar treatment. Product reconstitution with low volumes and injections at the consensus recommended sites and doses are crucial to prevent this complication. Lowering of the brow position may occur following treatment of forehead wrinkles and can be very distressful as it gives a 'sad look' to the patients.

In the mid and lower face, complications are usually caused by the use of high doses of BoNT-A. The use of small doses injected symmetrically can decrease the potential for complications in this area, such as mouth incompetence and asymmetries.

In the neck, the most common complications are dysphagia and difficulty in flexing the neck, which are also mainly caused by high doses.

Empathic and respectful attitude towards patients are essential for a successful treatment. In this presentation, the treatment of most common complications will be shown.

