

The skin around the eyes gives away everything, even when the rest of the face holds steady. We squint into sunlight, smile in photos, rub at allergies, and stare at screens for hours. Over time, those repetitive movements etch fine lines at the outer corners called crow’s feet. Just beneath the lashes, some people notice creasing or a soft crêpe-like texture that makeup can’t hide. Botox cosmetic injections can soften these signs when used thoughtfully. The goal is not to freeze your expression but to recalibrate it, so your eyes still smile, only with fewer lines.

I have treated hundreds of faces at various ages and skin types, and here is the pattern I see: Botox around eyes works beautifully when the injector understands anatomy, dosage, and the patient’s priorities. It fails when tactics override judgment or when someone chases a bargain that substitutes volume for expertise. If you are weighing a botox appointment for crow’s feet or under-eye lines, this guide will help you understand what’s possible and how to navigate it safely.

What Botox can do around the eyes

Botox is a neuromodulator that relaxes targeted muscles. Around the eyes, the main target is the orbicularis oculi. This muscle encircles the eye like a drawstring. When you squint or smile, it bunches up and folds the skin at the lateral corners. By softening the outer fibers, Botox reduces the depth of crow’s feet while preserving a natural smile.

For under-eye lines, the picture is more nuanced. Static creases beneath the lash line can come from thin skin, volume loss, sun damage, or constant motion. Micro doses of Botox may smooth mild bunching, especially when the muscle contracts strongly during smiling. If the concern is hollowing, sagging skin, or texture from sun damage, neuromodulators alone will not solve it. That is where a careful plan may combine Botox with other modalities like skin-boosting lasers, microneedling, chemical peels, or judicious filler placed in safe planes. The best botox injector will tell you what Botox can and cannot do, and will offer alternatives if your goals require more than muscle relaxation.

Safety starts with anatomy and restraint

The margins are tighter around the eyes than nearly anywhere else on the face. A few millimeters off can change not just your look but how your eyelid functions. You want someone who knows the difference between the pretarsal, preseptal, and orbital portions of the orbicularis and who respects how these zones interact with eyelid elevation.

A common fear is a droopy eyelid. True eyelid ptosis usually results from diffusion affecting the levator palpebrae superioris. With correct lateral placement for crow’s feet, that risk is very low, especially when the injector stays superficial and keeps dose conservative. Another worry is a heavy, baggy lower lid after under-eye treatment. Over-relaxation of the orbicularis can reduce support to the lower lid, making bags more visible. The antidote is sparing, precise dosing and good patient selection. If someone already has significant laxity, neuromodulator under the eye may accentuate it. In those cases, I steer the plan toward skin quality treatments or filler in the tear trough only when indicated.

How many units of Botox are typical for crow’s feet and under-eye lines

Numbers vary by brand, muscle strength, and aesthetic goal. For classic crow’s feet, I often see 6 to 12 units per side using on-label dosing with Botox Cosmetic. People with very strong lateral eye movement may need closer to 12 to 16 units total per side split across several injection points. Smaller faces or those seeking a very soft look may do well with 4 to 6 units per side.



Under the eye, most experienced injectors proceed with “baby botox” or micro botox: often 2 to 4 units per side, sometimes even less, and not in every patient. That is enough to soften bunching without destabilizing lid function. If I am unsure how someone will respond, I start low and invite them back in two weeks for a touch up. It is far easier to add a few units than to wait out an overdose.

Patients familiar with Dysport or Xeomin should know the unit conversions are not one to one. Dysport often requires more units for an equivalent effect due to differences in formulation, but cost is usually structured so the price per treatment area is comparable. Whether you choose Botox vs Dysport vs Xeomin around the eyes, the injector’s technique matters more than the brand.



Google Sheets

Sorry, unable to open the file at this time.

Please check the address and try again.

Get stuff done with Google Drive

Apps in Google Drive make it easy to create, store and share online documents, spreadsheets, presentations and more.

What it feels like to get Botox near the eyes

After a botox consultation, most clinics cleanse the skin and mark injection points. A tiny needle deposits the product into specific parts of the orbicularis. Patients describe quick pinches and a brief sting. The outer eye is less sensitive than the upper lip, for example, and most people rate the discomfort as low. Ice or vibration can distract nerve endings if you are needle-shy.

Minor swelling and pinpoint redness fade within an hour or two. Small bruises can happen, particularly if you take supplements or medications that thin blood. If you have an event, avoid fish oil, aspirin, and high-dose vitamin E for a week before your botox appointment unless your doctor advises otherwise. Makeup can be applied gently after a few hours.

When results show and how long Botox lasts

Botox results evolve. You may feel the muscle softening at day three, see visible smoothing by day five to seven, and reach peak effect at two weeks. Around the eyes, the effect typically lasts three to four months. Strong squinters tend to metabolize faster. A minority will stretch to five months, especially with consistent botox maintenance over time. If results fade at eight to ten weeks, discuss dose or placement on your next visit. You may need a different pattern or a competitive neuromodulator to see what suits your physiology.

Frequency depends on your goals. If you are doing preventative botox in your late twenties or early thirties, you may visit two or three times a year. If your lines are established and you like a consistently smooth look, plan for three or four visits annually. Some clinics offer a botox membership that spreads costs and reminders. That is not necessary, but it can help if you prefer a predictable schedule.

What Botox can’t do under the eyes

If you pinch the skin beneath your lashes and see thin, crinkly texture even at rest, that is often a skin quality issue rather than a dynamic line. Sun exposure, genetics, and a delicate dermis are the culprits. Fraxel or other fractional lasers, radiofrequency microneedling, or a light chemical peel can tighten collagen and improve texture. Skincare with prescription retinoids and diligent sun protection helps maintain those results.

If your concern is tear trough hollowness or under-eye bags, botox treatment is not the fix. Filler in the tear trough, when appropriate, can restore volume and soften shadows. This requires a conservative hand and deep knowledge of anatomy to avoid puffiness or the Tyndall effect. Some hollows are better addressed by cheek support rather than direct tear trough filler. If bags come from fat herniation, surgery such as lower blepharoplasty may be the most definitive option. The right botox doctor will tell you this upfront rather than trying to sell you more units.

Is Botox safe around the eyes

When performed by trained medical professionals with proper dosing, Botox around eyes is generally safe. Side effects are typically mild and transient, like bruising, swelling, headache, or temporary asymmetry. The rare but important risks include eyelid ptosis, diplopia, and dry eye. People with preexisting dry eye can feel worse if blinking is reduced, so the injector should evaluate blink strength and tear film. Those with certain neuromuscular disorders or who are pregnant or breastfeeding should avoid treatment.

The question I hear often is, is botox safe long term? Decades of clinical use suggest that periodic botox injections are well-tolerated for most healthy adults. Muscles can atrophy slightly with repeated treatments, which some patients like because it can prolong the interval between visits. If you want to keep maximum athletic squint for sports or bright-sun work and only soften lines a touch, tell your injector. The dosing can be adjusted to protect function.

Picking the right injector and clinic

I discourage shopping by botox price alone. Cheap botox often means rushed appointments, generic placement, or inexperienced hands. If you are considering botox specials, botox deals, or a botox groupon, check that the clinic’s medical oversight is legitimate and the product is authentic. Counterfeit or overly diluted botox cosmetic injections have surfaced in unregulated settings, and the risk is not worth saving a few dollars.

Look for clinics where you meet a medical professional who examines your face at rest and in motion. They should ask about your eye history, allergies, contact lens wear, migraines, and any prior botox results. Good injectors keep photos, including botox before and after angles that match lighting and expression. Read botox reviews, but focus on details that mention consultation quality and natural outcomes, not just low botox cost.

If you search “botox near me” or “botox clinic” and book botox at the first place that pops up, pause and consider a botox consultation first. A clinic that welcomes questions about brand choice, botox units, and treatment sequence is more likely to deliver consistent care. In my practice, first-time botox patients spend more time discussing goals than getting injections. That conversation pays off.

The mechanics of precise treatment

Most techniques for crow’s feet use three to five small injection points starting at the lateral canthus and fanning outward, angled away from the eye. The injector stays superficial to avoid vascular and nerve structures. For those with a strong “jelly roll” under the eye when smiling, one or two micro points may be placed just beneath the lash line, again

very superficially and with tiny doses. If a botox brow lift is part of the plan, lateral frontalis points can complement eye smoothing and create a subtle tilt to the tail of the brow, opening hooded eyes slightly.

Some patients benefit from pairing neuromodulator with other areas. Treating the glabella (the 11 lines) reduces the habit of scowling that adds tension around the eyes. A light touch in the frontalis can smooth the forehead while keeping brow movement enough to look alive. Over-treating the forehead can push brow heaviness downward, which may worsen upper-lid hooding. The art is to map the entire upper face as one ecosystem rather than isolated zones.

What about preventative botox and baby botox

Preventative botox aims to reduce the formation of etched lines by relaxing muscles before creases become permanent. For crow's feet, that can mean a small dose two or three times yearly in late twenties or early thirties, especially for those who squint hard in bright sun or during outdoor sports. Baby botox is not a distinct product, it is a dosing philosophy. Smaller amounts placed with precision yield softer changes and maintain expression. It is popular with on-camera professionals, teachers, and new parents who need to look awake but not different.

Micro botox, a technique where very dilute product is injected intradermally in a fine grid, can improve skin texture and sebum in some areas. Around the lower eyelid, though, most clinicians avoid heavy micro botox patterns due to the risk of lid weakness. Selective micro dosing, not blanket grids, keeps [top rated botox Sudbury Massachusetts](#) the result controlled.

Cost, packages, and what you actually pay for

Patients ask, how much is botox and what is the average cost of botox per area? Prices vary by region, injector experience, and whether the clinic charges per unit or per area. Nationally, botox price per unit often ranges from about 10 to 20 dollars. Crow's feet may require 12 to 24 units total, though the exact count depends on your strength and desired effect. Some clinics offer a flat botox treatment cost for the crow's feet area, others itemize units. Both models can be fair, provided the injector is transparent.

Be careful with discount botox or "cheap botox" ads that promise an unrealistically low botox price. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. A reasonable botox package or membership can offer modest savings and consistent follow-up windows without skimping on technique. Ask whether touch ups at two weeks are included if you undershoot the first pass. Clarity here avoids awkward surprises.

Botox and fillers around the eyes

Patients often ask whether to choose botox or fillers first. For crow's feet, Botox is usually first-line, since the lines are largely dynamic. For under-eye hollowness, filler may lead. Many people need a combination. A common sequence: address glabella and crow's feet with botox, reassess in two weeks, then place a small amount of hyaluronic acid filler in the tear trough if hollowing remains evident. Doing it in stages reduces the risk of over-correction and lets you evaluate whether neuromodulator alone meets your goals.

Elsewhere on the face, Botox and fillers play different roles. A botox lip flip softens lip rolling and can make the upper lip look slightly fuller without adding volume. The masseter can be treated with botox for jaw reduction and relief from clenching or TMJ symptoms, though that is a separate conversation from eye aesthetics. For those with migraines, therapeutic botox follows a different protocol and dosing.

What to expect at your first visit

You will complete a medical intake, then discuss your goals. Your injector will watch you animate. Smiling, squinting, looking up, closing eyes gently and tightly, each motion shows how the orbicularis behaves. Together you agree on a botox dosage plan. Consent covers risks, benefits, and alternatives. The injections themselves are brief. After, you are asked to avoid pressing the area, intense exercise, or saunas for the rest of the day.

Most clinics schedule a two-week check to assess botox results. If one side pulls harder or a small line persists, a touch up may be appropriate. If you feel over-treated, time is the cure, though a skilled injector can often balance asymmetry without adding heaviness.

Common pitfalls and how to avoid them

Overly aggressive dosing under the eye can cause a weak blink or accentuate bags. If you already see malar edema or strong festoons, be cautious. Another pitfall is neglecting skin quality. If you do nothing for sun damage or hydration, Botox will only do so much. Finally, do not chase magazine-smooth skin by immobilizing every muscle. The face looks best with a few micro-movements intact, especially around the eyes, where warmth and recognition live.

Alternatives and adjuncts worth considering

If you prefer to avoid injectables, a strategy of sunscreen, sunglasses, and prescription retinoids does more than any “natural botox alternatives” you see online. Peptides and growth factor serums can support skin health, but none replace the mechanical effect of muscle relaxation. For device-based options, non-ablative fractional lasers improve fine lines gradually, with downtime measured in days. Radiofrequency microneedling can tighten the lower lid region when applied by a clinician experienced in periorbital work. Chemical peels, even gentle ones, can smooth texture and pigment around the eyes when done carefully.

As for at-home devices, red light therapy may improve skin quality modestly with consistent use. Microcurrent can tone muscles, but it will not erase crow’s feet like botox for wrinkles does. Be wary of “botox at home” products. True botulinum toxin is prescription and should be administered by trained medical professionals.

A simple pre and post treatment checklist

- Before: pause blood-thinning supplements if medically appropriate, plan around events, arrive with clean skin, and bring questions about dose and placement.
- After: avoid rubbing or massaging the area for several hours, skip hot yoga or saunas until the next day, use gentle skincare that night, and schedule your two-week review.

Realistic expectations and the art of subtlety

The most satisfying botox results around the eyes do not announce themselves. Friends say you look rested. Mascara sits better. Sunglasses become optional on cloudy days because you are not squinting reflexively. Photos stop catching that fan of lines at the outer corners. You still smile fully. Your injector did not erase a story, they smoothed the punctuation.

Set your own version of success before you start. Some patients want a glass-smooth lateral eye at the cost of slight movement. Others prefer a whisper of lines that keep a lived-in look. Either approach can be correct if it reflects your identity and profession. The key is a provider who listens and adjusts. If your last treatment left you flat or too tight, do not give up on the therapy. Calibrate. A different pattern, a different number of units, or switching to Dysport or Xeomin can change the feel without changing your budget.

When to say no

I have turned patients away when the request would risk function or produce an unnatural look. If someone has significant lower lid laxity, a history of dry eye that worsens with reduced blinking, or an event tomorrow that cannot accommodate a bruise, it is better to wait or choose a different solution. Good medical botox is as much about knowing when not to inject as it is about technique.

The bottom line on investing in the eye area

If the eyes are your priority, start with a targeted botox procedure for crow’s feet and consider micro dosing under the eye only if indicated. Budget for maintenance every three to four months at first. As your muscles adapt, you may stretch the interval. If you search “botox near me,” value experience over the lowest sticker. Ask about touch ups, dosing philosophy, and how the plan integrates with skin health treatments. Keep sunscreen in your everyday routine and sunglasses in your bag. That combination, in my experience, delivers the strongest returns for the gentlest intervention.

For those new to injectables, a conservative first step builds trust and leaves room to fine tune. Book a consultation, not just a slot, and ask to smile, squint, and talk through mirrors with your injector before a needle appears. You want a face that still feels like you. Botox, done well, lets your expression breathe while quieting the lines that shout.