

BOTOX® FOR HYPERHIDROSIS

(EXCESSIVE SWEATING)

WHAT IS HYPERHIDROSIS?

Some unfortunate people have excessive perspiration in the armpits, palms of the hands or soles of the feet. Since sweat glands have tiny muscles associated with them, they can be “turned off” by preventing the muscle contraction, so BOTOX® is used to decrease sweat production. Sweat **WILL NOT** “BACK-UP” and cause a problem when its production has been decreased with this method. Patients who have this problem have difficulty with social interactions (such as shaking hands or showing affection to others), work and school (the excessive sweating can ruin school work or paperwork) – it is a very significant problem and these individuals need help. Up until now, only topical agents such as Aluminum Chloride (“Drysol”) and inotophoresis (electrical stimulation which takes a lot of time having the hands placed in a water bath with low voltage running through it) or surgery to cut the nerves (with lots of potential side effects such as damage to the lungs, and compensatory hyperhidrosis in other parts of the body after the nerves are cut).

IS THE TREATMENT PAINFUL?

The treatment requires multiple injections, but is usually well tolerated by most patients especially in the axilla. In the palms and soles, topical anesthetics and even nerve blocks can be performed if necessary.

HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?

Depending on how much we initially use, the effects can last 6-12 months. The more we use at first, the longer the effect. We usually start with an average dose the first treatment, which typically last 6 months.