

BEAUTY *to the* PEOPLE

BOTOX IS NOT BOTULISM

Whenever Botox is brought up in a conversation, someone (usually a guy, but not always) will inevitably say, thinking they're oh so clever and the first one to ever make the quip, "Why would you inject botulism near your brain!"

And then I want to kill myself.

Not because I am super pro-Botox or anything, but because there are a ton of things to consider before deciding to get Botox, and it being "botulism" is not one of them.*

Calling Botox botulism is like calling penicillin mold. Both are purified strains and/or blends of the original toxin. And as [Dr. Michelle Yagoda](#) (one of the only people I'd ever let near my face with a needle) points out to me: "Botox can be seen as similar to medications used in anesthesia."

Yes, Botox has a lethal dose and can kill you. But so does Advil. That's why you go to a reputable plastic surgeon or dermatologist (not your dentist who moonlights as a cosmetic doctor or basically anyone who works at a spa) who knows what he or she is doing. And as for injecting it near your brain, I guess *technically* it's right there, but unless the doc stabs the needle through your skull, I think you can put that concern to rest.

Real, actual concerns with Botox include the following:

1. Botox paralyzes muscles to smooth out wrinkles and prevent them from getting deeper, but it's expensive and wears off after three months, so it's a pricey commitment.
2. If you go to a crappy doc, you could end up with a droopy eye or a frozen face.
3. Botox is strictly tested on animals for safety, so if you are against animal testing, that's important to know.
4. There is some concern about long-term Botox use causing muscle atrophy, Aka sagging, over time.
5. Also, some people report wrinkles forming in other parts of their faces where their skin makes up for not being able to wrinkle in its usual, preferred spot.

Look. Botox makes a lot of people happy, so if you want it, go for it. Just be smart and don't let the haters get you down.

*Unless you're going to a shady doctor or pseudo-doctor who buys faux-tox off the back of a truck in Chinatown. Then you should be very, very worried for your safety.

April 30, 2013 by Courtney Dunlop at 2:41 PM

Source: <http://www.beautytothepeople.com/2013/04/botox-is-not-botulism.html>