



## Preface Botox



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*Guest Editor*

It is my pleasure as Guest Editor to present this issue of the *Facial Plastic Surgery Clinics of North America*. The included articles cover all aspects of cosmetic Botox use in the head and neck, and we are fortunate to have many of the pioneering Botox physicians as contributing authors.

For many years Botox use has been well known among otolaryngologists as an effective treatment method for spasmodic dysphonia. Its cosmetic uses have been explored since the early 1990s, and since its approval by the US Food and Drug Administration in April 2002 it has become a media celebrity. It is a common topic at medical conferences as well as cocktail parties and is the butt of many late-night comedy jokes. It is also the preferred introduction into cosmetic procedures by many patients wary of surgery. It is a fantastic and helpful practice builder for the emerging facial plastic surgeon and a great surgical adjunct for the seasoned professional. Its cosmetic and functional indications continue to expand and have resulted in it being adopted by many specialties. As we continue to explore, research, and

advance the uses of Botox, we can expect to see many more applications for its use.

Although it is a safe product with a wide therapeutic index, the skills required to obtain consistently good results are substantial. A keen understanding of facial anatomy, Botox's chemistry and potential side effects is key to becoming an expert. The facial plastic surgeon with such underlying training is particularly adept to adopting this agent, but a training period is still recommended.

We hope that this issue is helpful to the reader and that it will serve as a future reference.

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