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SPOTLIGHT ON:

BOTOX FOR ACNE

Thanks to its myriad applications—wrinkle, perspiration, Angeles. Facial surgeon Anil Shah, MD, one of the first doctors in New

Now many veteran injectors have added oil controller—and potential acne fighter—to the list, based on clinical and anecdotal observations of the drug's effect on sebum flow. "Skin is noticeably clearer in Botox-treated areas," says Mount Kisco, New York, dermatologist David E. Bank, MD, whose wife requests her touch-ups not as lines reappear but when her T-zone starts to look too shiny.

to stall sebum, toxin slackens es surrounding nerve transmis- a chemical that ture.

Botox is shot but for sebum inject a saline- ally into skin's n areas where valent, usually forehead," Shah nding on the pa- en in as little as approximately amount of time hold up any-

y to reduce oil l acne as well. eria can't thrive use inflamma- Tilton, MD, a professor of neurology and pediatrics at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Or-

clinical instructor of dermatology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los

professor of neurology and pediatrics at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Or-



GOOD SHOT: Botox makes its acne-fighting debut—could the wrinkle-relaxer inhibit oil production, too?

leans, treated 15 severe-acne sufferers with diluted Botox and found a dramatic reduction in breakouts 12 weeks posttreatment. Outright pore blockage doesn't seem to be a problem, since oil still flows to the skin surface—just at a much slower rate.

Still, some Botox experts are wary of administering the toxin across large areas of the face (versus the pinpointed-muscle approach). While admitting that the possibility is very rare, Miami dermatologist Fredric Brandt, MD, says, "I'm still concerned that the toxin could penetrate deeper and trigger overall facial weakening." But for those on a quest for a shine-free complexion, salvation may be worth a shot.—NICOLE CATANESE

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