

Expert Opinions

time, it could be added to our armamentarium for fighting acne."

Several years ago, a controlled study of 15 patients with intractable acne found improvement from one series of BOTOX injections either on the forehead or back. "We observed a significant difference in erythema, papules and elevation," said study author Ann Tilton, M.D., a professor of neurology and pediatrics at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, La. "Lesion count also improved. The study only assessed outcomes to 12 weeks, but in my clinical practice, I have observed improvement out as far as five to six months."

One of the reasons Dr. Tilton believes BOTOX is effective in reducing acne is its anti-inflammatory properties. "It also increases the motility of the keratinocytes," she said. "BOTOX probably enables better cell clearance, so there's no blockage." Moreover, it appears to obstruct androgen production.

"BOTOX can be added to your acne treatment 'tool box,'" said Dr. Tilton, co-inventor at Louisiana State University, associated with a patent to use BOTOX as an acne treatment. "But you should reserve it for the patient who does not respond to classical or traditional therapy."

For the patent filing, the index case was a Caucasian woman in her late twenties who had experienced severe cystic acne on her face since puberty. Following intracutaneous botulinum toxin A injections, there was a complete resolution of acne. After about six months, the cysts began to reoccur, but resolved approximately one week after a new series of injections.



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