



LIVE FAST Botox Young

Is injecting poison into your forehead in the name of vanity extreme? Perma-frowner Pippa Alcock goes under the needle...

h^having a younger boyfriend makes me acutely aware of my “cougar” status (awesome), but also of the permanent frown lines I seem to be collecting at a rapid rate (not so awesome). As I’ve just turned 28, the cracks are beginning to appear, and I’m not talking about my heels. After much consideration and fierce debates with friends, I decided to allow a needle near my forehead, and nuke Ripple City.

Dr Bradley Wagemaker, medical director of Lamelle Research Laboratories in Sandton, kindly offered to guide me through the procedure. A curious friend and I made a booking

for the following week. The day arrived and I couldn’t help but have visions of myself with a semi-paralysed face, drooling. My friend assured me that Dr Wagemaker is a medical professional and not a beauty therapist wielding false nails and needles. Plus, the treatment is temporary, so there’s no possibility of anything permanent going wrong. As comforting as this was, I’d done my homework and found that not all doctors in South Africa are willing to administer Botox, as there’s no research on the long-term effects. “It’s

Thursday afternoon,” muttered my conscience. “Shouldn’t you be on the treadmill instead of joining the frozen-face society?”

Four o’clock on the dot, the door opened. A woman in her 40s appeared, smiling, laughing and looking fabulous. She winked at us as she passed, and I found myself wanting to be her in

20 years. Next emerged Dr Wagemaker, who’s in his 30s, tall, and a little bit of a McDreamy. Bonus! He put us at ease

“SHOULDN’T I BE ON THE TREADMILL INSTEAD OF JOINING THE FROZEN-FACE SOCIETY?”

immediately and was totally honest about all the pros and cons of the treatment; the most serious side-effect being a little bit of bruising. “Think of Botox as a tool. It’s corrective and

preventative when treating skin,” he explained. He asked me to look into a mirror and make some crazy faces, and while we talked about my concerns, he pointed out the lines that may become deeper. I made Dr Wagemaker pinky swear (seriously) that I wouldn’t look like Nicole-this-is-my-only-expression-Kidman. Four injections and five minutes later, it was over. Before I could even sit up, my curious friend squealed, “My chance!” clapped her hands together and shoved me off the bed. Pain factor was a very bearable 6/10, and the red dots on my forehead faded to nothing by the time I jumped into my car.

The Botox takes four to six days to see proper results. Each morning thereafter, I woke up to a less furrowed brow. The final test: young boyfriend cub says he can’t see a difference, so what’s he looking at then? Not my forehead. Even as a beauty editor, I’ve always thought of Botox as something for the vain and frivolous; something I’d never consider. My initial opinion on Botox has changed, but I kind of miss my “krinkle kop”, and none of my friends or colleagues noticed a change. When’s my next appointment? Ten years’ time. Maybe. *The end*

WHAT IS IT?

Botulinum toxin type A is a deadly neurotoxin, but administered in small doses, it’s commonly known as Botox®, an FDA-approved temporary muscle relaxant.

WHAT DOES IT CLAIM?

To iron out wrinkles and lines by temporarily relaxing the facial muscles. The effect should last for three to four months.

HOW MUCH?

Pippa’s forehead treatment cost R720. The cost will depend on the severity of the wrinkles and the degree of improvement you’re looking for.

WHO DID THE TRIAL?

CLEO’s beauty ed Pippa Alcock, who no longer has a need for a fringe.

PHOTOGRAPHY PETER WHITFIELD.