



Injection of Botulinum Toxin on the Mentalis Muscle for the Esthetic Lower Lip Curvature

Jin-young Choi, D.D.S.

Dental Clinic Center, Ajou University Hospital

■ Abstract

Even though the patient's facial skeletal pattern is proper, definitive esthetic profile is influenced by soft tissues, such as the thickness of skin or the tension of muscle. When it comes to the lower lip and chin area, a proper curvature is necessary for a beautiful lateral profile. It is desirable to have a formation of 'S-line' from lower lip to chin area without tension on the chin, when a patient adducts his or her mouth. Excessive tension of Mentalis muscle is one of the most common causes destroying the beauty of the lower lip and chin area. It can also affect the teeth, resulting malocclusion. BTX-A, a kind of botulinum toxin, is a widespread medication to weaken the muscles. When BTX-A is injected in the Mentalis muscle, the excessive tension of the muscle can be corrected. This results in formation of a proper lower lip curvature within a few weeks. For patients who have an inordinate tension of Mentalis muscle, especially after orthodontic or orthognathic treatment, injection of BTX-A can be the most useful and easiest way for esthetic correction. The following presentation will introduce the effects of BTX-A on esthetics of lower lip and chin area.