

Risks

No decision about treatment should be made lightly as no procedure is ever without risk and you should be aware of potential side effects for each treatment. It is not just the product itself that can cause problems however but also the way it is administered. A good clinic will have clinical staff on hand to assist with any adverse reactions.

It should always be considered that it is the practitioner and not the product which will make the difference between a poor result and a brilliant result. Don't feel pressured by strong sales tactics and look for clinics that are registered with the Healthcare Commission.

Dr Steve Hennessy, who runs the Cosmetic Clinic in Fulwood, Preston, is another who warns against putting trust in fly-by-night botox parties.

Dr Hennessy, who has been qualified for 13 years in dentistry and seven years in facial cosmetics, is well known for a campaign that urges people to have cosmetic procedures done in safe, clinical environments.

"I do not approve of botox parties in private homes, due to the fact that peer pressure, alcohol and potentially "unclean" environments mean informed consent and adequate assessment of a patient's needs may not be fully met," he said.

"I would always encourage a one on one consultation with a patient in a calm, clean environment where a fully informed, un-pressured decision can be made. Although risks with Botox are minimal it is still a medicine to be administered under proper conditions."

Further Information

www.healthcarecommission.gov.uk
www.botox.com
www.botox.com
www.botox.com
www.healthcarecommission.gov.uk

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Five things to consider before any treatment

- Find a reputable clinic that adheres to industry guidelines and don't be tempted to do any procedure on the cheap or in a medically uncontrolled environment.
- Always have a full consultation and discussion prior to agreeing to any treatment.
- Don't be tempted to sign up for treatments that you don't want, don't need or may not be right for you.
- Make sure you understand the procedure, everything that's involved and any likely side effects. Don't be afraid to ask questions and always ask for written instructions to take away with you.
- Beware of having any treatment done abroad, if anything does go wrong you will have no access to after care or a very time consuming and expensive battle on your hands to put it right. Plus you are unlikely to have legal support on your side.

