

Dangers Lurk in BOTOX® Parties, Warns Mt. Sinai Director of Laser Research

New York, June 14, 2002 – BOTOX® parties, in which patients gather at a friend's home and drink cocktails and champagne while undergoing the newly FDA-approved wrinkle treatment, pose numerous dangers, according to a leading dermatologist and attorney. David J. Goldberg, M.D., Clinical Professor of Dermatology and Director of Laser Research in the Department of Dermatology at New York's Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Adjunct Faculty member at Fordham University School of Law, warns consumers that BOTOX® treatments are not safe outside of an appropriately trained physician's office.

"BOTOX® parties are dangerous on many levels," Dr. Goldberg cautioned. "First, these parties are not taking place in a sterile environment; second, patients are drinking alcohol and may not feel like sitting upright or standing for the required four to six hours; third, patients may not exercise good judgment and common sense after imbibing." Dr. Goldberg has been asked to address the risks associated with inappropriate BOTOX® injections at the upcoming annual summer American Academy of Dermatology meeting in NYC this August.

BOTOX® patients are told to keep their heads raised and to sit or stand for four to six hours and are cautioned against even lowering their heads to tie their shoes. Lying down within a short time of the treatment may cause the BOTOX® to migrate to unintended areas, causing possible side-effects.

"BOTOX® is a wonderful, safe and effective FDA-approved cosmetic procedure," said Dr. Goldberg, who has performed over a thousand BOTOX® treatments. "However, as with any medical procedure, there are possible side-effects. Alcohol and non-medical settings can exacerbate any complications. As a physician, I would never perform the procedure in a home or other non-medical environment. As an attorney, I would strongly discourage any physician from participating in a BOTOX® party."

David J. Goldberg, M.D. is director of Laser Research in the department of Dermatology at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and maintains three offices in Manhattan and New Jersey, the Skin Laser & Surgery Specialists of New York & New Jersey (<http://www.skinandlasers.com>). Dr. Goldberg is a Yale and NYU-trained, Board-Certified Dermatologist who is recognized worldwide for his work with skin lasers. In 1999, he was the first recipient of the prestigious Leon Goldman, M.D. award, named after the founder of laser medicine and surgery, and has been designated "One of the Top 10 Laser Surgeons in the U.S." by Self Magazine. The Skin Laser & Surgery Specialists of New York & New Jersey, directed by Dr. Goldberg, has conducted pioneering FDA research on the newest lasers. Dr. Goldberg is past president of the American Society for Laser Medicine & Surgery, and is currently Director of both Laser Research and MOHS Surgery at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. He is also on faculty at Fordham University School of Law.

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