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BOTOX FOR THE BOYS

COMFORT ZONE:
It's a fine line between fear and courage and the men are given some alcoholic help before their injections



JEYA Prakash was catapulted into prominence as the plastic surgeon who helped create the glamour model Jordan's figure. But he's also the doctor who introduced Botox parties to Britain four years ago.

Botox is now the UK's number one cosmetic treatment and more than 8,000 people have injections each month. Stars including Celine Dion, Cher, Madonna and Liz Hurley are all rumoured to have used it to iron out their wrinkles.

Botox, derived from the deadly bacteria botulinum toxin, was originally used to treat people with severe facial muscle spasms. But when patients who received the treatment noticed their lines and wrinkles also became less pronounced, the botox boom was born. It works by freezing the facial muscle tissue but if done badly it can lead to an expressionless appearance.

Once a month, more than 50 women congregate at Dr Prakash's exclusive Harley Street surgery in Central London to sip champagne, chat to friends and get their Botox fix. Party-goers pay £200 for the injections and the events are so successful, there's a three-month waiting list.

But now men are getting in on the act, too. Cliff Richard, Dale Winton and Sylvester Stallone

In the final part of our series on cosmetic surgery, STEVEN SMITH goes to a beer and Botox party, the latest hot combination for a bloke's night out

are said to have had Botox injections so Dr Prakash has started monthly male-only beer and botox parties.

As a typical, 36-year-old male, I thought any wrinkles I did have gave me character so it was with trepidation that I rang the bell at 104 Harley Street to meet my fellow guests.

An attractive woman called Caroline Robson, Dr Prakash's personal assistant, ushered me in and handed me a pint of beer. "We had Nicky Haslam at the

last party," she said which actually did nothing to reassure me. It was a relief, though, to see the room was filled with normal looking men of all ages.

Tim Hassell, a 24-year-old estate agent, who looked more like a male model, chatted to me about the property market and offered to view my flat.

I soon started to relax and enjoy myself until I was handed an official looking 10-page medical questionnaire to fill in. Then the guests were taken down one by one to meet Dr Prakash and have



INJECTIONS: Dr Prakash

their injections. They returned 15 minutes later with ice packs pressed firmly against their faces to stop any swelling or bruising.

This did alarm me but the men seemed to take it in their stride and told me there was nothing to worry about.

Just as Martin Fletcher, a 48-year-old make-up artist was entertaining me with a story about Joan Rivers who is one of his clients, my name was called.

Dr Prakash looks like a great Indian spiritual leader in a

Savile Row suit. He tells me he's just returned from an anti-ageing meditation centre in the Far East and is planning to open the equivalent in London next year.

He says men need a higher dose of Botox than women because they tend to be more facially expressive. The first treatment can last up to three months but the more I have it done the less often lines will reappear.

He mentions that men are also having Botox injected under their arms to help stop them sweating. Botox paralyses the nerves that drive the sweat glands so they stop producing so much.

TO MY surprise, he tells me to go away and think about it and suggests using a good moisturiser and facial scrub in the meantime. I was relieved because I'm not good with needles at the best of times.

However, there wasn't much empathy from my companions back at the party and I was called a "chicken" for wanting to think about it.

I felt like I had missed a penalty at a five-a-side match and let my fellow players down.

● Dr Prakash can be contacted on 020 7224 1622.