

Would you like a Botox injection after your filling, madam?

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A GROWING number of dentists who have left the NHS are setting up lucrative sidelines in beauty treatment, offering Botox injections alongside fillings and check-ups.

One in four dentists are now able to offer the cosmetic injections to freeze facial muscles, as well as anti-ageing fillers and facial peels, a survey found.

The leading cosmetic training body for dentists, run by Dr Bob Khanna, has taught 4,000 of England's 20,000 dentists procedures such as Botox, while experts said a "conservative" estimate would suggest one in four are either offering "cosmetic injectables" or preparing to enter the market.

The survey included NHS dentists, some of whom do private work that could include beauty treatments. More than 1,000 dentists have left the NHS since the Government's introduction two

years ago of a contract that many claim loses them money. Almost half the population in England – more than 23 million people – had no NHS dental care in the two years to last September.

But increasingly, those paying privately for the perfect smile appear to be open to cosmetic work. Dr Khanna, believed to have been the first British dentist to offer Botox, runs three surgeries, and as well as the dentists his institute has trained in such work, he estimates that at least 1,000 have learnt it elsewhere.

Typically, Botox is offered for between £150 and £1,000, fillers for £200 to £2,200 and skin-peels from £125. Dr Khanna said dentists' training in anatomy, and sterile good-practice made them preferable to "backstreet beauty salons" for this sort of procedure.

Dr Anoop Maini, a London dentist, said that about a quarter of his workload now involved treatments

such as Botox and fillers, mainly for women aged between 40 and 50. "I often say to patients, 'I can give you the teeth of a 35-year-old, but unless you have work to remove the wrinkles around your mouth, you will still have the face of a 50-year-old,'" he said.

Some, who didn't want their husbands to know about the work, liked the fact that their bills were labelled as dental, he added.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Would you like your dentist to offer Botox? telegraph.co.uk/news

