

Korean firm introduces new botulinum toxin for aesthetic market

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An exclusive license to register, market and commercialize a botulinum toxin (DTX-021) in the United States and Canada



Aquavit Holdings LLC, with its manufacturing partner is Huons Bio Pharma, has announced that it acquired an exclusive license to register, market and commercialize a botulinum toxin (DTX-021) in the United States and Canada.

Huons Bio Pharma, a spin-off from the publicly traded South Korean corporation Huons Global, will receive sizable milestone payments and royalties in addition to an upfront payment, and become the exclusive supplier of Aquavit's botulinum toxin. Aquavit plans to initiate the registration process by filing an IND with the FDA shortly.

According to a published article by American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS), the licensed asset DTX-021 showed equivalency on glabellar lines and improvement on periorbital rhytids compared to onabotulinumtoxinA (BOTOX®) in a multicenter, double-blind, randomized, parallel, active-controlled phase III clinical trial. There were no adverse events.

As per The Aesthetic Society and the Global Market Insights, botulinum toxin has been the #1 non-surgical aesthetic procedure since 1999 and is still growing rapidly.

Botulinum toxin (Botox) is a neurotoxic protein produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum* and related species. It prevents the release of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine from axon endings at the neuromuscular junction, thus causing flaccid paralysis.