As long as our current science is not capable of producing botox in a humane way, there can only be one conclusion: we have to discontinue the use of botox for non-life-threatening indications until our science and culture are capable of producing it in a humane way.

I can accept the argument in the comment of Dr. Pickett that a substance injected into the skin is not a classical cosmetic.

The claim of Dr. Pickett – that botox is only being given to people who are about to develop a serious depression because of their wrinkles – is unacceptable. None of my colleagues in the field of dermatology, and much less those working in walk-in botox clinics, ever seriously assess the severity of an upcoming depression caused by wrinkles. And even if they did, I am sure that most people would gladly declare to be somewhat depressed because of their wrinkles – as a matter of fact, I am too!

And yes, character does matter in this subject. We should expect from people of today’s culture to decline asking mice to suffer so severely to relieve them from a few wrinkles for a short time.

The principle stating that we should not use technology we are not yet able to manage in a proper way should also apply to other fields, e.g., the REACH program. Of course it would be nice to know more about the toxicity of old chemicals. But as long as we are not able to test them in a humane manner, without harming and killing millions of animals, and in spite of the fact that we do not know how many humans will ever profit from this research, we should wait until we are able to test with animal-free methods.

Our science and culture are neither ready for botox nor for REACH.

Further information
For clarification, excerpts of the relevant texts pertaining to the above discussion from Directive 76/768/EEC and the European Pharmacopoeia are transposed here.