

Adult Neurology

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BOTULINUM TOXIN INJECTIONS

Your physician has recommended botulinum toxin injections to treat your neurological condition. Botulinum toxin is a biological substance that occurs naturally in the environment in 8 forms. Only types A (Botox--onabotulinumtoxinA, Xeomin--incobotulinumtoxinA, Dysport--abobotulinumtoxinA) and B (Myobloc--rimabotulinumtoxinB) are used medicinally. Botulinum toxin has been very helpful in the management of blepharospasm, hemifacial spasm and VIIth nerve disorders, torticollis (cervical dystonia), writer's cramp, spastic dysphonia, strabismus, limb spasticity, hyperhidrosis (excessive sweating), excessive salivation, overactive bladder, for the reduction of chronic migraine (frequent chronic migraines) and facial wrinkles.

The action of the toxin is to bind to nerve endings within 24 hours ultimately preventing the release of a chemical neurotransmitter called acetylcholine. This effectively blocks the targets of that particular chemical from action—usually muscle (reduces excessive involuntary muscle contraction) and gland (can reduce excessive sweating or drooling). The action is typically partial to allow for “normal” function of muscle. Effects are usually seen to start between 24 hours and 2 weeks and peak around 2-4 weeks. The benefits will eventually wear off in 3 months (some conditions such as hyperhidrosis and hemifacial spasm it may last 6-9 months) and injections are typically repeated every 3 months. Repeat injections are not done sooner than three months from previous injections (to limit accumulating doses and minimize the risk of antibody formation).

Typical side effects can include dry mouth and eye for facial procedures, blurred vision, minor bruising or bleeding that is self limited, aching or pain at the site, neck pain (9% in migraine treatment), transient excessive muscle weakness or lid droop (when used around the eyelids), allergic reaction or distant spread (extremely rare), swallowing difficulty (most often seen in a small number of cervical dystonia patients treated in their neck muscles) and breathing difficulties (rare).

Please be certain to tell your physician if you have had any previous botulinum toxin injections for any reason and when they were performed, if you have had botulism, if you have had vaccinations for botulinum toxin (military), if you use certain antibiotics called aminoglycosides, and if you have certain neuromuscular junction diseases such as ALS, Eaton Lambert Syndrome, Myasthenia Gravis, Guillain Barre Disease as these conditions may require a dose adjustment or the need to avoid the injections. If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, you should not receive botulinum toxin injections.

The alternatives to botulinum toxin injections for some of the above indications include oral medications and certain types of surgery to include deep brain stimulation. However, botulinum toxin injections are often the primary treatment of choice for the conditions discussed and can be used very safely in conjunction with other medications you may be on including blood thinners. The toxin does not typically interact with other medications, does not rely on liver or kidney functions for clearance (as is often the case with oral drugs) and does not require blood laboratories and counts to start treatment. Repeated cycles of injections may be necessary for optimal results.

Anesthesia is NOT necessary to perform the injections.

If the patient typically drives, they may drive themselves home after the procedure.

Only specially trained neurologist physicians in our office perform these injections and they have many years of experience. For any other questions regarding your treatment, please feel free to discuss these with our physician staff.

DISCLAIMER

OUR OFFICE WILL OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FOR YOUR TEST; HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR INSURANCE PLAN'S CURRENT BENEFIT AND COVERAGE RULES. SOME INSURANCE PLANS PAY DIFFERENTLY DEPENDING ON THE PLACE OF SERVICE, FOR EXAMPLE; OUT-PATIENT HOSPITAL VERSUS A DOCTOR'S OFFICE. YOU MAY BE AT RISK FOR A GREATER OUT-OF-POCKET FINIANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY; THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD CALL THE MEMBER SERVICES OR BENEFITS TELEPHONE NUMBER LISTED ON YOUR INSURANCE CARD TO FIND OUT WHAT YOUR FINANCIAL OBLIGATION MAY BE PRIOR TO ANY APPOINTMENT.

A CANCELLATION / NO-SHOW FEE OF \$100.00 WILL BE BILLED TO YOU IF YOU DO NOT GIVE AT LEAST 24 BUSINESS HOURS NOTICE PRIOR TO CANCELLATION OF YOUR APPOINTMENT.