

Using Botulinum Toxin A (BoNTA) to reduce spasticity

The information in this handout is about BoNTA treatment to reduce spasticity. The doctor will review the information with you. Please ask questions and discuss your concerns. If you or your legal guardian agree to the treatment you will be asked to sign “A Consent to Treatment” form from the Hamilton Health Sciences.

What is Botulinum Toxin A BoNTA?

Botulinum Toxin A (BoNTA) is medication that is used for many different conditions. With your condition, it is being used to treat and reduce spasticity. Botox[®] and Xeomin[®] are brand names for BoNTA.

How does BoNTA treatment work?

BoNTA is injected into muscles using a needle. To inject into the right area of the muscle, the doctor uses electromyopathy or EMG, which measures muscle electrical activity. To do an EMG, special pads are placed on the skin, so that the doctor can hear that the needle is in the proper position.

BoNTA blocks the movement of nerves to the muscle. This reduces the spasticity of the muscle. The effects are temporary, and can happen over a 3 month period. You may need more injections in the future.

BoNTA can take up to a week to work and the best effects are seen about 3 to 4 weeks after the injection. For some individuals, the best effects can last longer.

If you are receiving or have received BoNTA (Botox[®] or Xeomin[®]) for any other reason such as for headaches or cosmetic purposes, please tell your doctor. For safety reasons, the injections should be at least 10 to 12 weeks apart.

How can BoNTA help me?

BoNTA can reduce pain or spasms. The effects of BoNTA depend on your goals, but can improve:

- walking
- joint range of motion and positioning
- fit of braces or splints
- hygiene, skin care and ease of dressing

What side effects can I expect?

You can expect:

- local soreness where the needle was given
- weakness in the muscle injected

Rare complications or side effects include:

- fever and rash
- pain more than 2 days after the injection
- infection where the needle was given
- allergic reaction
- all over body weakness
- difficulty in speaking, swallowing, breathing, blurred vision or eyelid weakness

If you have concerns call your doctor's office and leave a message.
If your concerns are urgent go to an Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department.



If you have any overall body weakness and/or problems with vision, swallowing or breathing go to the Emergency Department right away.