

Using Botox[®] to reduce spasticity

Botox[®] (Botulinum Toxin A) is a substance made by bacteria. It is purified so it can be safely used as a treatment for spasticity.

How does Botox treatment work?

- Botox is given in a needle (injection). A doctor injects Botox into the affected muscle.
- Botox blocks the chemical signals from nerves to the muscle. This reduces the contraction of the muscle.
- Botox takes 1 to 3 days to start working. The best results are felt in 1 to 2 weeks and can last in the muscle for several months.
- When the affected muscle becomes relaxed it can be stretched out. This helps the muscle to grow and get longer with exercise.
- The effects of Botox are temporary. Your child may need more injections in the future.

Your child will get the best effect from Botox injections when they are combined with a therapy program.

How can Botox help my child?

Each child reacts differently to Botox, but here are some possible benefits:

- Your child is able to move better
- Your child is able to do everyday activities better
- Your child is more comfortable in his or her braces and wheelchair
- It is easier to care for your child, for example with dressing or hygiene
- It may make serial casting more effective
- It may delay or reduce the need for orthopedic surgery

What side effects are possible?

Side effects of Botox injections	What to do
<p>Common side effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tenderness, swelling, redness and/or bruising where the needle was given • pain during injection 	<p>These are usually harmless and don't need medical help.</p>
<p>Rare side effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • infection where the needle was given • weakness of the injected muscle • loss of balance due to weakness of the injected muscle • lack of bladder control, when muscles close to the bladder are injected • seizures may begin or occur more often • fever • flu symptoms 	<p>Call the Spasticity Clinic if any of these occur.</p>
<p>Very rare, but serious side effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general weakness • swallowing problems • breathing problem • allergic reaction 	<p>Seek medical help immediately if any of these occur.</p>

What are the risks of not using Botox?

If Botox is not used as a treatment, your child's muscles may:

- become shorter due to increased spasticity
- no longer work properly

**For more information,
please call the Spasticity Clinic Nurse Practitioner:
905-521-2100, ext. 75528**