

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PROCEDURE

BOTOX INJECTION

How we do the procedure

Botox or botulinum toxin A is a purified protein derivative made by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum* that is FDA-approved for use in treating blepharospasm (eye twitching), spastic torticollis (wry neck), and dystonias (conditions with abnormal muscle movements). It is also used in the treatment of myofascial pain syndromes (conditions in which there is chronic muscle tension with active trigger point areas). Recently, it has been used for cosmetic purposes to decrease facial wrinkles. The injection is performed by reconstituting or mixing the Botox with preservative-free saline or local anesthetic and injecting it through a small needle into the involved muscle. The Botox is incorporated into the neuromuscular junction (the location where the nerve connects with the muscle) and blocks nerve stimulation of the muscle which causes the muscle in the area injected to be paralyzed for several months. Once the body replaces that inactivated neuromuscular junction, the effects wear off. This usually takes about 3 months.

What to expect

Botox would have to be used at more than 100 times the usual dose to create any risk of significant side effects. The most frequent side effects in patients being treated for cervical dystonia are difficulty swallowing, upper respiratory infection or flu-like symptoms, neck pain and headache. Localized pain, tenderness, and/or bruising may be associated with the injection. Weakness of the injected muscle is the intended result. Weakness of adjacent muscles may also occur due to spread of the medication. If you develop antibodies to Botox, it simply will not work. If you only get temporary relief, we may repeat the injection when the pain returns. We usually wait 3 months between injections to avoid stimulating antibody production. If it does not relieve your pain, we will discuss other treatment options.

Risks

The risks include infection and a reaction to any of the medications used for the procedure. We use sterile technique to avoid infections. If you would like more information about Botox, we have pamphlets available from Allergan.

Safety Precautions

Since your ability to drive may be impaired for a few hours, we ask that you have someone drive you