

Orthoptist Led Botulinum Toxin Clinic

Ophthalmology

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Wash your hands with soap and warm water and dry thoroughly. Use hand gel, if provided, in care facilities.
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting stay at home and do not visit relatives that are vulnerable in hospital or in residential care. You will spread the illness.
- Keep the environment clean and safe. Let's work together to keep it that way. Prevention is better than cure.

This information leaflet is for patients wishing to have treatment with botulinum toxin for the condition of hemifacial spasm or blepharospasm. The purpose of this leaflet is to inform or remind those undergoing treatment of the possible side effects and important information we need to know prior to injecting you.

Why do I attend this clinic?

You attend this clinic because you have a medical condition which requires botulinum toxin injections to control your symptoms.

This condition may be blepharospasm or hemifacial spasm. Your symptoms may be that of unwanted eye closure or unwanted twitching or movement of the muscles around your eyes or on one side of your face.

What is botulinum toxin?

Botulinum toxin is produced from bacteria and can be used medically in very small quantities to prevent unwanted contraction in muscles. There are a number of different types of botulinum toxin; the type we routinely use in this clinic is botulinum toxin type A (Dysport®).

What are the benefits to having botulinum toxin injections for blepharospasm and hemifacial spasm?

It is highly likely that the injection of botulinum toxin will reduce the frequency and intensity of the unwanted eye closure or twitching that you are currently experiencing in the muscles around your eye.

Who will undertake the injections?

The injections will be undertaken by a Highly Specialist Orthoptist. The consultant lead for this service is a Consultant Ophthalmologist, within the specialty of Oculoplastics.

Where will I be injected?

The sites of injection may vary but will be around the eye, and in some cases on the eyelid. In cases of blepharospasm, then injections will be around both eyes/eyelids. The sites of injection will depend on the particular type of spasm you have.

How long will it be before I notice any effect?

The effects from the injection may not be felt for around two weeks following the procedure, and may last for up to four months following this.

Are there any risks involved with the treatment?

These are some of the risks that may arise when having botulinum toxin injections.

It is possible, but **unlikely**, that following the injection you may experience the following side effects:

- Bruising around injection sites
- Double vision
- A droopy upper eyelid
- A droopy lower eyelid
- Eyelid swelling
- Headache
- Flu like symptoms

Extremely rare side effects

In the **very unlikely** case that you should experience the following, then you need to seek medical help **immediately**.

- Swallowing problems
- Breathing problems
- Allergic reaction to Botulinum toxin

Is there an alternative to treatment with botulinum toxin, and what would happen if I decided not to have this treatment?

There are a variety of other treatments available, these treatments may include:

- Medications such as muscle relaxants and anticonvulsants, which may cause a number of unwanted side effects
- Surgical procedures aimed at weakening the muscles around the eye or stopping the compression of the facial nerve by a blood vessel (in the case of hemifacial spasm) are also available, but tend to be reserved for very severe cases where other treatment methods have failed

The choice about which treatment is best for you will be made together with the Orthoptist and Consultant. This will be based on risks and benefits of the treatment and your individual circumstances.

Consent process

We must seek your consent for any procedure or treatment beforehand. The risks, benefits and alternatives to treatment (where relevant) will be explained to you. If you are unsure about any aspect of the procedure or treatment proposed please do not hesitate to ask for more information.

You will be required to give your consent for this treatment. If this is your first visit to the clinic you may not be injected today, but may be asked to sign a consent form.

Please inform us of the following:

- If you are feeling unwell
- If you have a temperature or infection
- If you are taking antibiotics / have recently been prescribed antibiotics
- If you have or have recently been diagnosed with a muscular condition such as **Myasthenia Gravis**
- If you are pregnant, trying to become pregnant or breastfeeding
- If you are on Warfarin or any other blood thinning medication
- If you have a swallowing problem

Contact information:-

For general enquiries or concerns following treatment:-

The Orthoptic Department
Wolverhampton Eye Infirmary
01902 695830 / 01902 695838

Ask to speak to the Clinic Manager.
(Available Monday – Friday 08.00 -17.00)

If you have specific concerns that occur 'out of hours' then please address these with your GP or contact 111. In cases of emergency then please attend the Emergency Department or call 999.

Further information :

Further information on your condition and its treatment is available through The Dystonia Society.

Website: www.dystonia.org.uk

Office: 020 7793 36 51

Email: info@dystonia.org.uk

If you have any personal access needs or require wheelchair access and wish to talk to a member of staff please call 01902 695830.

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਢੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਢੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。

Designed & Produced by the Department of Clinical Illustration,
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