



## **Botulinum Toxin Injection**

Botulinum toxin has been used to treat disorders of excess muscle tone, including spasticity. Currently, there are two products: BOTOX, which is botulinum toxin, type A, and MYOBLOC, botulinum toxin type B. Each blocks the release of acetylcholine and relaxes the muscle.

Botulinum toxin is injected directly into the muscle, and the dose depends upon the size of the muscle, as well as the degree of spasticity. To reduce the discomfort of injection, a cold vapocoolant spray is applied to the skin surface just prior to administration. Botulinum toxin is usually effective for 4 to 8 months, with a return of previous muscle tone thereafter. Some patients receive a set of injections 2 or 3 times per year, if the treatment is found to be effective.

There are minimal side effects. As with any invasive procedure, there is a small risk of infection. The skin is prepped with Betadine prior to administration. Some patients report a few weeks of dry mouth, but this can be a benefit to those patients with cerebral palsy, where excess salivation can be a problem.

This procedure is performed in an outpatient setting, and no special preparation is necessary. Although the injection only takes about 5 minutes, the whole process requires about 30 minutes. The medication is ordered ahead of time, and must be specially prepared.

Our staff tries very hard to stay on schedule, as well as to make this experience pleasant for the patient and his/her family. Please try to be on time for your appointment, and if you must cancel, please notify us the day before.

If the patient has been running a fever, as with a cold or flu, we ask that you reschedule, as we desire to minimize any risks of this procedure.

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