



Botulinum Therapy at the Department of Clinical Neurophysiology

Introduction

Before receiving botulinum therapy (treatment with botulinum toxin injections) you will have been assessed as to whether this is an appropriate treatment for you and we will have had the opportunity to discuss the benefits and side effects of botulinum therapy.

Botulinum toxin is given by injection through a fine needle that is inserted into specific muscles. The aim of the treatment is to produce reversible partial weakness in muscles that are overactive. The toxin is a highly purified substance obtained from a naturally occurring bacterium and as part of the process of manufacturing, a very small amount of human albumin from donated human blood that has been screened is used.

The benefits and side effects of botulinum therapy

The effects of botulinum therapy do not occur immediately after the injection and may take a week or two before the effect is first felt.

Whilst the intention of botulinum therapy is to produce only partial weakness some patients experience more noticeable weakness but this will wear off usually over the space of a few weeks. As botulinum therapy is not a permanent treatment the injection will need to be repeated usually every few months, otherwise the effects wear off.

On starting botulinum therapy, usually a small dose is first used, therefore the effects may last a shorter period of time and in some cases the treatment may not work. If this happens a larger dose may be used at the next clinic visit.

Side effects

Most patients have very few side effects. The types of side effects you may experience are:

- Bruising at the site of the injection and this can cause some discomfort
- Rarely patients have an allergy to the botulinum toxin
- Some patients can experience flu like symptoms in the days following the injection.

There are number of less common side effects which include:

- Infection at the injection site
- Swallowing difficulties
- Difficulty passing urine
- Double vision
- A small increased risk of clots in the leg if certain leg muscles are injected but these side effects are uncommon

Your next appointment

As every patient is individual, we will agree an appointment for the next injection or if you prefer

Information for Patients

you can contact the department on **0121 371 6375** to arrange an appointment when you feel your next injections are due. If you need to discuss any other aspect of your botulinum therapy, you can contact the department of clinical neurophysiology on this number.

Neurophysiology

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Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston Birmingham B15 2GW

Telephone: 0121 371 6420

Mon–Fri: 8.30am–4.30pm

If you require this information in another format, such as a different language, large print, braille or audio version please ask a member of staff or email patientexperience@uhb.nhs.uk.