

A guide for patients being treated with BOTOX® (Neurology)



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Our pursuit. Life's potential.®

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Important

Like all medicines, BOTOX® can have side effects. We strongly advise you to read the Patient Information Leaflet that comes with the medicine before treatment starts. Please ask your doctor or nurse to provide you with this leaflet, or you can read it online at: www.maltamedicineslist.com

What is BOTOX®?

BOTOX® is a prescription medicine that contains a tiny amount of a protein that would do harm in large amounts, but in the very tiny amounts that doctors use, can be beneficial.

BOTOX® has been available worldwide for over 20 years and is used in the treatment of a number of medical conditions.

How may BOTOX® help me?

In spasticity:

BOTOX® can be used either in adult upper limb spasticity post stroke, or the lower limb in children with juvenile cerebral palsy.

BOTOX® is often used as just one part of a treatment plan. It will help make your muscles easier to move and may also help to control any tremors or spasms in the affected limbs.

- It may take around two weeks before you see any real progress
- You should continue to feel the benefits for three or four months

In cervical dystonia:

BOTOX® may stop or greatly reduce the muscle spasms experienced in the neck.

- It usually starts to work after a few days but it may take up to two weeks before you feel the full benefit of the treatment
- It will last between one and four months; in most cases, the benefits last three to four months

In blepharospasm and hemifacial spasm:

BOTOX® helps to stop or greatly reduce symptoms.

- It usually starts to work a day after the injection and you will see an effect within three days
- It usually takes a week – or sometimes two – to get the full effect, which may last around three months

In hyperhidrosis:

BOTOX® helps to stop or greatly reduce symptoms.

- This will usually happen within four weeks of treatment
- The effects may last between four and seven months

What does the treatment involve?

Before your treatment

Before recommending BOTOX®, your doctor will have carried out a number of tests to check that it is a suitable treatment for you.

You should not receive treatment with BOTOX® if:

- You have had a bad reaction to botulinum toxin type A treatment in the past
- You have an infection at or around any of the areas to be injected
- You are pregnant or breast-feeding

How is the treatment given?

BOTOX® is administered by injection, into muscles or sweat glands. If you are scared of needles or concerned about your treatment, please speak to your medical team. They will be able to reassure you and answer any questions you may have. They will also be able to tell you what could be done to help you relax during treatment and may give you something to relax or sedate you before your injection(s).

Spasticity, cervical dystonia and blepharospasm

To find exactly the right muscles to inject, your doctor may use touch, ultrasound scanning or a device that stimulates the nerves. Your course of treatment may require you to have more than one injection in a single session. You may feel a little discomfort during the injection(s), but this should not last for long.

Hyperhidrosis

Before your treatment, your doctor will need to identify the areas to inject. They will locate the areas of excessive sweating by applying a mixture of iodine solution and starch that changes colour when in contact with sweat. Your course of treatment will require a number of small injections just under the skin. You may feel a little discomfort during the injection(s), but this should not last for long.

What happens after treatment?

Your doctor or nurse may ask you to stay at the clinic for a short time, to check that you are comfortable following your treatment. You may also be asked to arrange your next appointment.

You may get some bumps on the skin at the places where you were injected, but these should disappear within a few hours. You should try not to rub the places where you have been injected for 24 hours after you receive your injections, in order to ensure your treatment has a chance to work properly.

Will I still need to take my painkillers or other prescription medicines?

Your doctor will discuss with you which medicines or painkillers are best to use while you are being treated.

What should I look out for after treatment?

Like all medicines, BOTOX® can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. In general, side effects occur within the first few days following injection and last only for a short time. In rare cases, they may last for several months or longer. The side effects that have been reported following treatment with BOTOX® are described in the Patient Information Leaflet that can be found at www.maltamedicineslist.com.

Important

Side effects related to the spread of toxin distant from the site of administration have been reported very rarely with botulinum toxin (e.g. exaggerated muscle weakness, difficulty in swallowing, food or liquid accidentally going into the lungs and pneumonia).

You should contact your doctor immediately if you or your child experiences any of the following:

- Difficulty in breathing, swallowing or speaking
- Severe allergic reaction (*hives, swelling including swelling of the face/throat, wheezing, feeling faint and shortness of breath*)

If you notice any side effects not listed in this booklet, please tell your doctor.

When will I need to see my doctor again for re-treatment?

Your doctor will tell you when you need to return for an appointment so they can follow up your progress over the longer term.

They may arrange an appointment for you after a few months to see how you are getting on. Or they may tell you to book an appointment to see them when the effects of BOTOX® start to wear off.

Where can I find out more information?

If you have any questions about your treatment, please ask your doctor or nurse. Why not write down any questions you have beforehand to make sure that all your questions are answered.

The Patient Information Leaflet can probably answer most of your queries. The doctor should give you a copy of this leaflet. Alternatively you can read it online at: www.maltamedicineslist.com.

Patient organisations

Malta Health Network
MHN
Patients Rights
Malta
www.maltahealthnetwork.org
info@maltahealthnetwork.org

Multiple Sclerosis Society of Malta
www.msmalta.org.mt
maltams@gmail.com

Your guide to treatment with BOTOX®

(botulinum toxin type A)

Suspected side effects or medication errors should be reported since these increase the available knowledge on the medicine. Side-effects or medication errors can be reported to the Medicines Authority by filling in a form online at www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal or at 203, Level 3 Rue D'Argens Gzira GZR1368. Alternatively they may be reported to Vivian Corporation, 29, Tower Street, Msida MSD1824 or by phoning +35621344610