

what is Botox?

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Botox is short for botulinum toxin type A. Botulinum is a kind of bacterium. The effects of botulinum toxin have been known since the early 1900s, but the toxin has only just been discovered to help patients with spasticity and muscle contractures. Some neuro-logical conditions, such as cerebral palsy, can cause limbs to be tight and difficult to move. In some cases, these contracted muscles can be relaxed with Botox injections. Botox works by blocking neural impulses to the muscles in the injected area. As a result, the muscles relax and muscle spasms are no longer able to occur.

who gets Botox therapy?

Botox therapy is used to treat patients with spasticity that restricts function or causes pain. Usually, the spasticity affects muscles of the face, neck, arm, or leg.

Our team helps the patient and family member or caregiver identify goals before treatment begins. The treatment is done as an out-patient procedure. There is no sedation needed to inject Botox. It is very similar to receiving a standard vaccine. The skin is prepped using an alcohol swab and then sprayed with a numbing agent to numb the skin. The medicine is injected into the muscle using a small needle. The doctor may inject small amounts of Botox into several locations along the muscle group or within many muscle groups. This helps maximize the benefits of the medicine.

authorization

Prior authorization will be sent to your insurance company. Prior authorization is a check required by insurance companies or third party payers before they will agree to cover certain prescribed medications or medical procedures. Prior authorizations can take up to 14 business days to be processed. Once authorization has been obtained you will be contacted to schedule the Botox injections.

how will the injections be administered?

The amount of medicine your child receives will depend on your child's degree of spasticity and which muscle groups are spastic or contracted. The number of injections needed depends on many factors, including the extent of the area being treated. The amount your child will be given and number of injections will be determined and discussed at your child's initial consult visit. Botox therapy can be repeated as early as three months after the last injection, if your child had good results and your goals were met. Dosages may need to be adjusted in order to get desired results.



Unfortunately, the effects of treatment with Botox are temporary. Periodic retreatment is necessary to maintain the therapeutic results.

After treatment

It is important to understand that Botox is an effective, ongoing treatment for the relief of symptoms — it is not a cure. Because every patient is different, the degree of relief will vary from person to person. Patients should resume activity slowly and carefully after Botox injection. The day of the injection it is recommended that braces not be worn and no aggressive stretching be done.

The most common side effects include discoloration, redness, pain, or discomfort at the injection site. Tylenol may be given for any discomfort.

Follow-up

A follow-up appointment will be made three weeks after your child's first Botox injection to evaluate its effects and to make further treatment recommendations if needed. This appointment will be made at the same time as your child's Botox injection appointment.

This handout is for general information only and should not be considered complete. For more specific information, please ask your child's health care provider.

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