



Information for
patients and
carers

**Botulinum Toxin treatment for
Migraines**

Introduction

This leaflet aims to provide general information for patients receiving Botulinum Toxin for treatment of Dystonia or chronic migraine.

What are Botulinum Toxin injections?

Botulinum Toxin injection relaxes muscles and blocks signals involved in muscle contraction and/or pain.

Where it is a suitable treatment, Botulinum Toxin provides significant relief for many people. Usually easing symptoms rather than eliminating them.

Following injection, the treatment takes effect gradually over 3-7 days, sometimes longer.

Treatment is usually given every 12-16 weeks.

What are the risks/side effects?

As with all medications there are possible side effects, and these can vary depending on the location of the injection. These can include:

- Pain at injection site
- Bruising
- Stiff neck
- Headache
- Flu like symptoms such as fever, muscle pain and nausea
- Dysphagia (trouble swallowing)
- Excessive muscle weakness
- Ptosis (eye closure)
- Facial drooping

- Bleeding
- Botox contains Human Albumin
- Serious side effects can include:
- Allergic reaction (swelling of the tongue, closure of the airways)
- Spread of toxin, which could potentially cause life threatening breathing or swallowing difficulties
- If you feel like you are experiencing life threatening side effects, please seek urgent medical attention

When should Botox not be given?

Botox should not be given:

- During pregnancy or whilst breast feeding
- If there is an infection at the injection site
- If you have a neuromuscular condition such as Myasthenia Gravis
- If you have a known allergy to Botulinum Toxin or Human Albumin (blood product).
- Taking certain medicines such as: aminoglycoside or antibiotics
- Medicinal products that interfere with neuromuscular transmission.

Please make your healthcare provider aware if:

- If you are receiving any other Botulinum Toxin product
- If you are prescribed Anticoagulants
- If you experience any excessive or unexpected muscle weakness
- If you have been administered Botox for any other condition in the last 12 weeks
- If you are undergoing chemotherapy or radiotherapy

Always notify the doctor or specialist nurse in charge of your care if you have any side effects or changes in your medical status.

Contact details:

Should you require advice or information please contact:

Dystonia and Migraine team at Royal Preston Hospital:

- Telephone: 01772 524274
Email: DystoniaNursesRPH@LTHTR.nhs.uk

Medical Secretaries:

- Telephone: 01772 522556 / 01772 522548

Sources of further information:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.dystonia.org.u

www.dystonia-foundation.org

www.migrainetrust.org

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Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

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