

# Botulinum Toxin (Botox<sup>®</sup>) Injection

C. botulinum is a gram-positive anaerobic bacteria that can be injected in small doses for medical purposes. Botox works by blocking the muscles, thus preventing muscles from contracting.

## Conditions treated

You may benefit from a Botox Injection if you suffer from:

- Chronic migraines
- Cervical dystonia (torticollis)

## Duration

Less than 30 minutes

## How is it performed?

This procedure is performed by injecting Botox into each muscle affected by cervical dystonia or migraine, and therefore requires multiple injections.

## Prior to your procedure

You should have a driver bring you to the office.

## What are some of the risks and side effects?

This procedure is a relatively safe, non-surgical treatment, with minimal risks of complications. Some of the most common or possible side effects are:

- Asymmetry in the face
- Difficulty holding your head up
- Drooping of eyes
- An increase of your usual pain for 24-48 hours after the injection.

## What to expect after the procedure

If you have increased pain after the injection, you may apply ice to the area for no more than 10-15 minutes each time, up to 4-5 times a day. If you do not have an allergic reaction to the medication and you do not have liver problems, you may take Tylenol<sup>®</sup> as need for pain. Do not take more than 3 grams per day, for the first 24-48 hours.

The injections take 7-14 days to take effect. Each patient reacts differently. Your pain may not entirely subside. After the third treatment session, you should start to notice relief for up to 2-3 months.

You should call your doctor if you experience a fever over 101, chills or swelling within 72 hours of the procedure.

You may resume all other medications immediately following the procedure, according to your usual schedule or as directed by your primary care or managing physician.

Please seek immediate medical attention for fever, chills or swelling.

Please follow up with your referring physician 4 weeks following the procedure.

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