

Information:

Botulinum Toxin for Spasmodic Dysphonia

Information Regarding Botox®

1. Botox® or Botulinum Toxin is a neurotoxin derived from the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. This medication works by weakening or paralyzing the muscles into which it is injected.
2. In Spasmodic Dysphonia (SD), muscles of the voice box (larynx) spasm and cause voice problems. Botulinum toxin can be injected in these conditions to reduce these spasms and improve voice and is the most common treatment for SD.
3. Botulinum toxin must be directly injected into the muscles of the larynx to achieve its desired effects. Typically, this involves direct injection through the skin of the neck and use of Electromyography (EMG) to guide placement into the desired muscle. Occasionally, alternative means of injection can be considered in special circumstances.
4. Dosage of the medication is variable in any given individual and it may require repeat treatments to optimize the dose. Because Botox® can cause side effects, your physician will use the lowest dose possible to achieve the therapeutic benefits.
5. Botox® does not have immediate onset of action. As a result, after injection, you may not experience any change in voice for 48-72 hours. Duration of effects typically range from 2-6 months.
6. Following injection there may be some slight discomfort at the injection site. Often the voice may weaken or have a “Minnie mouse” quality for a limited amount of time. This generally, lasts for about 1-2 weeks but can occasionally, last longer.
7. Side effects of the injection are generally, mild and include: temporary swallowing problems, especially with liquids. This typically, occurs with higher doses and you can compensate by drinking small amounts. Any significant side effects should be reported to your physician.
8. Please call your physician with any of the following: Severe pain, inability to swallow any solids or liquids, shortness of breath, fever, or allergic reactions.

Contact Info:

Maurits Boon, MD

Joseph Spiegel, MD

Thomas Jefferson University
Otolaryngology – Head and
Neck Surgery

925 Chestnut Street, 7th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215-955-6760

Fax: 215-503-3736