

## **BOTOX FOR MUSCLE DYSFUNCTION IN PAIN MANAGEMENT & SPASTICITY & DYSTONIA**

### **What Is Botox?**

Botox (Botulinum Toxin type A) Purified Neurotoxin complex is a protein produced by the bacterium Clostridium Botulinum.

### **How Does It Work?**

Botox is a nerve impulse blocker. It binds to nerve endings and prevents the release of chemical transmitters that activate muscles. These chemicals carry the “message” from the brain that causes a muscle to contract. If the message is blocked the muscle does not spasm and relaxes. Botox may begin to take effect in 2-3 days after the injection. Botox usually reaches full effect in 1-2 weeks. The nerve endings may grow new connections which gradually re-initiate muscles activity. On average the effect of the Botox may last 2-4 months. Repeat injections may be required to maintain desired clinical effect.

**Botox therapy may be repeated no earlier than 3 months.**

### **Side Effects**

As with any therapeutic agent or intervention, certain patients may experience side effects.

Skin rash, hives or itching may occur. There may be soreness at the injection site. Infrequently there may be flu like symptoms. It is possible to have some muscle weakness in other muscles near the injection site. Occasionally patients develop dry eyes, dry mouth, a “droopy eyelid”, or difficulty swallowing. The effects of Botox may be increased by certain antibiotics or other drugs that interfere with neuromuscular transmission. Inform your physician of all medicines that you take (prescription, over the counter, herbs or natural products). If you have any further questions regarding possible side effects, be sure to ask your physician.

### **General Pre/Post Instructions**

Patients may eat a light meal before the procedure. If a patient is an insulin dependent diabetic, they should take their insulin and eat. Patients may take their routine medications. (e.g. high blood pressure and oral diabetic medications). If you are on **Coumadin (Warfarin)**, **Plavix (Clopidogrel)**, **Lovenox**, **Pletal (Cilostazol)**, **Effient (Prasugrel)**, or **Pradaxa (Dabigatran)**, notify the office so that special instructions may be given. If you are allergic to iodine, contrast, or medical dye, please inform the office. Patients can expect to be at the facility approximately 1 1/2 hours. A driver must accompany the patient and be responsible for getting them home. No driving is allowed the day of the procedure. Patients may return to their normal activities the day after the procedure, including returning to work unless instructed otherwise by the physician.

### **Additional Information**

It is important to understand that Botox may be an effective ongoing treatment for you to relieve symptoms only. It is not a cure. Because every patient is different, the effectiveness or degree of relief can vary from person to person.

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