Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital

Botulinum Toxin Type A – Botox Treatment

Urology Department
Information for Parents and Carers
What is Botulinum Toxin Type A?

Botox is a trade name for a purified form of Botulinum Toxin A that is derived from bacteria. Although it is a toxic substance, its use within medicine is now widespread and it is subject to strict safety measures to ensure its safe use.

Why has Botox been recommended?

Botox is used for a variety of urinary problems; the most common are:

- Neuropathic bladder: A malfunction of the bladder due to partial or complete interruption of the nerve supply.

- The overactive bladder: A condition that can cause frequent visits to the toilet during the day and night, an intense urge to pass urine with or without a leakage of urine.

How does Botox work?

Botox causes a temporary paralysis of small areas of the bladder muscle so that when the bladder squeezes, the pressure generated is not too high to push urine back up towards the kidneys, hence protecting the kidneys from damage. It also reduces the ability of the bladder to contract at inappropriate times which can reduce urinary frequency and incontinence.

By reducing the ability of the bladder to contract at inappropriate times, the frequency of toilet visits will be reduced.
How is Botox given?

Your child will require a bladder assessment before treatment begins and this will be repeated two weeks following the Botox treatment.

Your child will require a general anaesthetic to administer the Botox treatment therefore they will be admitted to the hospital.

The Botox is given whilst your child is asleep in theatre. It is given through a small telescope (cystoscope) which enters the bladder thorough the urethral opening. A very small, fine needle is introduced into the bladder via the telescope and several sites are injected with Botox.

Following the procedure, once your child has passed urine they will be able to go home on the same day.

How long will the procedure take?

The procedure will take approximately 60 minutes including the anaesthetic time.

Is the procedure painful?

After the procedure your child may experience some discomfort when passing urine. We would encourage you to offer your child plenty of fluids and regular pain relief as prescribed by your child’s Doctor.
When will my child feel the benefits of the Botox?
It will take one to two weeks for the Botox treatment to take effect. You may notice a change in your child's toileting habits.

How long does the Botox last?
Studies have shown that the effects last between six and nine months with the average length of time being eight months.

What will happen when the effects wear off?
This procedure can be repeated. This is quite safe and the response to further Botox injections appears to be the same as the first injection with no long term problems.

Following the procedure your child will be given antibiotic treatment to reduce the risk of urinary tract infection. However, if your child experiences:

- Burning when passing urine.
- Their urine has an unpleasant odour.
- Increased need to pass urine.

Please consult your GP and provide a sample of urine or alternatively bring your child to the Paediatric Emergency Department.
What are the side effects of Botox?

Botox is used in the bladder to paralyse the muscles. This reduces the over activity of the bladder and helps your child to be dry.

This may stop your child from passing urine and it may be necessary to pass a tube (a catheter) into their bladder to drain their urine. The bladder will need to be drained four times a day. You will be taught how to do this. This procedure will need to be carried out for 3 – 18 months until the effect of the Botox has stopped. This occurs in 10% of patients.

- Blood in the urine. This may happen for up to three days after having the Botox treatment.

- Your child may experience some discomfort when passing urine. It is important to encourage them to drink plenty of fluids, you should give your child pain relief as prescribed by their Doctor.

- Occasionally some patients experience:
  - Abdominal pain
  - Dizziness
  - Fever
  - Diarrhoea
  - Flu like symptoms. If these persist please consult your child’s Doctor.

- On some occasions a child may experience generalised weakness of their body.
Contact Telephone Details
Beverley Whitnall, Clinical Nurse Specialist Paediatric Urology
Monday – Friday 8.00 am – 4.00 pm Tel: 0161 701 7707
Paediatric Emergency Department: Tel: 0161 701 9101
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0161 701 7707

Urology Department

Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital

Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9WL

Clinical Nurse Specialist

Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 4.00 pm

Tel 0161 701 7707

www.cmft.nhs.uk