

Are There Any Side Effects?

Botulinum Toxin was approved by Health Canada in 1999 and has been used safely in treating many children with Cerebral Palsy over the years. However, some patients do experience adverse side effects like:

- Temporary local weakness
- Mild fever within 1-2 days after the injection
- Localized pain, bleeding or bruising at the injection site
- Temporary incontinence

Rare, but potentially serious, systemic side effects may occur as early as day one of the injections and as late as several weeks after treatment. These side effects may include:

- Allergic reaction or anaphylaxis
- Generalized muscle weakness and fatigue
- Difficulties in swallowing
- Slurred speech
- Breathing difficulties



PLEASE REMEMBER

Your child should seek immediate medical attention if he/she experiences any of the above mentioned systemic side effects.

Note: Botox®, the form of Botulinum Toxin used in Canada contains a small amount of albumin, a derivative of human blood. Therefore, there is a theoretical risk of transmission of viral diseases with this drug. However, no cases of viral transmission have ever been identified.

CONTACT

For more information on
Botulinum Toxin visit
www.erinoakkids/botox



If you have any questions
about the information contained
in this brochure please call:
905-855-2690 or 1-877-374-6625

Salina Arroz – ext. 2431
10145 McVean Drive
Brampton

Angela Harris – ext. 2421
2000 Glenorchy Road
Oakville

Sabrina Bhathal – ext. 2488
1230 Central Parkway West
Mississauga

www.erinoakkids.ca

ERINOAKKIDS
Centre for Treatment and Development

Welcome to the Botox® Clinic

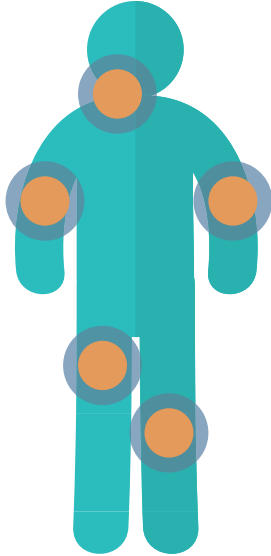


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What is Botulinum Toxin?

Botulinum Toxin is one of a number of toxins produced by the bacterium *Clostridium Botulinum*. Small amounts of the purified toxin have been said to be beneficial in the treatment of some medical conditions.

Botulinum Toxin has been approved by Health Canada to treat conditions such as strabismus (squint), blepharospasm (involuntary spasm of the eyelid), spasmodic torticollis (wry neck), excessive sweating and focal spasticity in children with Cerebral Palsy or in adults after a stroke.



How Does Botulinum Toxin Work?

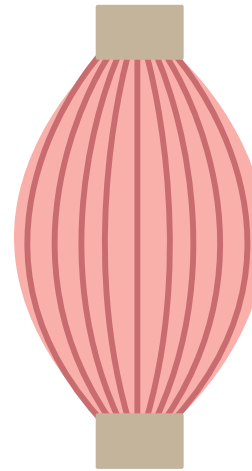
Botulinum Toxin works by blocking the chemical responsible for sending messages from the nerves to the muscles that makes them move. This causes temporary muscle weakness and at the same time allows the stiff muscle to relax.

How does Botulinum Toxin Help Children with Cerebral Palsy?

Some of the symptoms of Cerebral Palsy are due to spasticity, a condition in which certain muscles are continuously contracted. Spastic muscles have difficulty relaxing.

In order to understand how Botulinum Toxin may help children with Cerebral Palsy, it helps to understand how normal muscles function.

When a muscle is active or working, it contracts or shortens; when it is resting or inactive, it relaxes to its original length. Muscles that are “spastic” do not relax to their full length at rest. Prolonged spasticity leads to permanent muscle shortening (contractures).



Over time this may lead to bone and joint deformities. These, in turn, make it harder for children to use their limbs. Part of the treatment for Cerebral Palsy is directed at minimizing the effects of spasticity on muscle function and growth. Physiotherapy, orthotics (braces), serial casting and eventually orthopaedic surgery are all methods used to manage spasticity. When Botulinum Toxin is used to reduce spasticity, it is to:

- Promote more normal muscle growth
- Avoid or postpone the need for surgery
- Make it easier for children to wear orthotics or undergo serial casting
- Improve children’s functional abilities

How is Botulinum Toxin Given?

Botulinum Toxin is injected into muscles in the arms or legs. Before the injection, a freezing cream called EMLA or Maxilene is applied to the skin over the muscle and left there for about 30 minutes. (There may be a small charge for the cream.)

The dose of Botulinum Toxin is calculated on the basis of body weight.



Is there funding for this treatment?

The cost of Botulinum Toxin is covered by OHIP+ in full for families who are qualified for the Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) program and families who do not have private insurance.

If you have private insurance, please contact your provider and request approval forms prior to your child’s injection. For families whose private insurance does not cover Botox, please speak to the Pediatric Nurse or your Service Navigator as they may be able to assist you with alternate methods of funding.