

BOTOX[®] Injections for Muscle Spasms and Pain

General Information

Your brain normally uses a chemical (acetylcholine) to make your muscles contract (get smaller) and move.

When too much acetylcholine is released, you can have muscle spasm and pain.

BOTOX[®] is a medicine that blocks the release of acetylcholine. The result is fewer or no muscle spasms and pain.

Uses for BOTOX

BOTOX is used to treat:

- blepharospasm: abnormal blinking or spasms of the eyelid(s)
- strabismus: eyes not aligned with each other (eyes do not work together)
- hemifacial spasm: contractions of the muscles on one side of the face
- cervical dystonia: neck muscles that spasm, causing the head to twist and turn to one side
- headaches
- myofascial pain syndrome: pain in the muscles.

Your Appointment

Date: _____

Time: _____ a.m. / p.m.

With: _____

To cancel, please call the United Pain Center at 651-241-7246 at least 24 hours before your appointment.

Before the Procedure

- Arrange to have someone drive you home. You may have some numbness that could make driving difficult.
- If you take blood thinner such as warfarin (Coumadin[®]), heparin, clopidogrel (Plavix[®]) or ticlopidine (Ticlid[®]):
 - Call the Patient Care Line at 651-241-7365 as soon as you schedule your appointment. You will receive special directions.
- Do not eat any solid food for 6 hours before the procedure.
- You may drink clear liquids up to 2 hours before the procedure.
- Take your regular medicine(s) with a small sip of water.

(over)

How Often You Can Have a BOTOX Injection

You can have a BOTOX injection once every 3 months. Injections given sooner can cause your body to “reject” the medicine. Also, the nerve takes 3 months to begin releasing acetylcholine again.

If the first injection does not offer any pain relief, a second injection is not recommended.

Possible Side Effects

After receiving a BOTOX injection, you may have one, some, all or none of the following side effects:

- problems swallowing (if the injection is near your neck muscles)
- soreness at the injection site
- fever
- flu-like symptoms
- upper respiratory tract infection
- dry mouth
- dizziness
- nausea (upset stomach)
- drooping eyelids.

Insurance Coverage

Some insurance providers cover the costs of BOTOX injections. United Pain Center staff will check with your insurance provider to see if your policy covers the injections.

After the Procedure

- You will be in the clinic recovery room for about 20 minutes. The nurses will watch you and check for any side effects.
- Before you leave the clinic, a nurse will go over the discharge instruction sheet with you. He or she will talk with you about a follow-up appointment.

Whom To Call With Questions

Call the Patient Care Line at 651-241-7365 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.