

# **BOTULINUM TOXIN TREATMENT FOR SQUINT**

## **INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS**

1. Q. **What is the effect of Botulinum Toxin?**  
A. The effect of Botulinum Toxin is to cause paralysis of the muscle in to which it is injected.
2. Q. **How long has it been used?**  
A. It has been used as a form of treatment since 1980.
3. Q. **Will it affect my general health?**  
A. The treatment is perfectly safe and there is no risk to general health. In particular there is no risk of developing Botulism or food poisoning.  
There is no known risk to women who are pregnant, some patients prefer to postpone treatment until after the birth.  
"Dysport" and "Botox" both contraindicated in pregnancy - safety in lactating woman not confirmed.
4. Q. **Who will I see when I attend the clinic?**  
A. Initially you will have an examination by an Orthoptist. You will then see one of the doctors working with the Consultant Ophthalmologists. If the treatment is thought to be of value, you will be asked to sign a consent form and your name will be added to the list for that day.
5. Q. **What is the procedure for the treatment?**  
A. Local anaesthetic drops, which numb the eye are given prior to treatment. You will then have wires placed on your forehead and these are connected to an amplifier and loudspeaker. This is to allow the exact site of the injection to be carefully monitored by recording the electrical activity of the muscle and this can be heard through the loudspeaker during the injection.
6. Q. **What happens after I have had the injection?**  
A. You will be asked whether you prefer a pad on the eye or to wear your own glasses. The eye is numb after the drops so should be protected for about two hours in case something blows into your eye without your knowledge. Some patients have an ache in the eye for a while after the injection. If this is not better after an hour, take whatever medication you would normally take for a headache. Avoid driving if feeling unwell.
7. Q. **When should I expect to notice an effect from treatment?**  
A. The effect is normally noticed about two days after the injection is given.

8. Q. **How long does the effect last for?**
- A. The paralysis lasts for several weeks, occasionally months and then wears off completely. You may notice a temporary reversal of direction of the squint, followed by gradual straightening of the eyes as the paralysis wears off.

9. Q. **What are the possible local side effects?**

- A. Temporary double vision. If this is significant and bothersome you should not drive unless you cover one eye.  
Temporary drooping of the eyelid on the side of the injection. This usually resolves after a few weeks.  
Slight bruising of the surface of the eye.  
These will all get better without any further treatment.

10. Q. **When do I return to the clinic?**

- A. We like to see all our new patients one or two weeks after the injection. It is occasionally necessary to give a further injection at that visit, if the first one doesn't produce an adequate effect.

11. **Other notes:**

If you have any reason to believe that you may be a carrier of Hepatitis or HIV virus, please make sure you tell the doctor who sees you in the clinic. The information is confidential, but it is essential that we are informed. Please ask the doctor who sees you to explain further, if you are not clear about anything before signing the consent form.

Please keep this information sheet for further reference.

12. **Other rare Side- effects.**

Diplopia is possible.  
Keratitis, dry eyes, reduced blinking, photophobia, lacrimation, short term burning sensation.  
Allergic reaction- not recorded.  
Skin rash- not recorded.  
Influenza like symptoms- not recorded.

**This is intended only to provide general information for patients. Any patient who is worried or unsure about his or her individual circumstances should see specialist advice relating to these**