

Further Information

How is BTX given?

BTX is administered by injection into a muscle using a fine needle and may be given into more than one area at a time. The doctor may use ultrasound to target the exact muscles to inject. BTX procedures do not require anaesthesia. It may take 2-3 days after injection for BTX to begin taking effect and up to 10-14 days to see the full effect (these times will vary from person to person and treatment to treatment).

The effects of BTX are temporary and your symptoms may return gradually over three to five months depending on the individual, at which time the injection will need to be repeated.

What are the side effects of BTX?

Side effects which may appear within the first few days following the injection, are usually temporary, and will resolve/reverse within weeks. As with any injection you may experience bruising or pain at injection site. Other possible side effects include:

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- ◇ Headache
- ◇ Flu like symptom
- ◇ Dry mouth
- ◇ Muscle weakness near injection site
- ◇ Swallowing difficulties

This is a very low risk procedure. However, there is always a small risk of infection where the skin is penetrated. If you feel you need urgent medical attention or are worried about anything please contact the IR department Monday- Friday 9am-5pm on **01-7974712**, your GP, or go to your nearest A&E Department.

This leaflet tells you about having a botulinum toxin injection. It explains what is involved but it is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your doctor but can act as a starting point for such discussions.

Beaumont Hospital
Incorporating
St. Josephs, Raheny

Imaging and Interventional Radiology Directorate

PATIENT INFORMATION

LEAFLET:

Botulinum Toxin Injection



Botulinum Toxin Injection
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Botulinum Toxin

What is Botulinum Toxin?

Botulinum toxin (BTX) is a toxin produced by Clostridium botulinum bacteria. The toxin acts at the junction between the nerves and the muscles, preventing the release of one of the chemical messengers called acetylcholine from the nerve endings which normally cause the muscles to contract. This results in a weakened muscle and helps to reduce some of the abnormal muscle contractions allowing them to relax.

Where will the procedure take place?

The procedure will take place in the Interventional Radiology (IR) Department. The injection is performed by an Interventional Radiologist. This is a doctor who specialises in using ultrasound equipment to perform minimally invasive procedures.

What should I expect during the procedure

What is BTX used for?

BTX is used to treat a variety of conditions including cervical dystonia, writer's cramp, siallora (excessive drooling), chronic pain, spasticity, spasmodic dysphonia (voice disorder), hyperhidrosis (excessive sweating) and migraine headaches.

Please let us know if you are taking any antiplatelet medications (for example, Aspirin, Clopidogrel), or any medicines that thin the blood (for example, Warfarin), as these may need to be withheld temporarily before the procedure.

In the IR Department, you will be checked in by a nurse who will ask you some medical questions. The Interventional Radiologist will discuss the procedure with you and you will have the opportunity to ask questions or raise any concerns. If you are happy to continue with the procedure you will be asked to sign a consent form.

Preparation before you receive Botox?

- ◇ You should not receive BTX if you have an infection, swelling or muscle weakness in the area where the medication will be injected
- ◇ Bring a list of all your medications with you
- ◇ Inform the doctor if you are pregnant or breast feeding or intend to get pregnant in the coming months as you should not receive BTX
- ◇ Inform the doctor if you have received BTX injections at another hospital in the previous four months
- ◇ There is no need to restrict your diet or physical activity either before or after the BTX injection