

Botox™ to treat Blepharospasm and Hemifacial spasm

Indications for Botox™ use

Botox™ is a brand name for botulinum toxin type A, a neurotoxin that blocks messages between muscles and the nerves that control them. The effects of Botox™ become apparent 2-5 days after injection and generally last for 4-6 months. Botox™ is approved for use in Australia for the treatment of facial dystonias (including blepharospasm and hemifacial spasm).

Botox™ is the most commonly used botulinum toxin used to treat blepharospasm or hemifacial spasm. There are other forms of botulinum toxin (eg Dysport) which are used also, but less commonly.

Alternatives to Botox

Other alternative treatments for blepharospasm or hemifacial spasm include, but are not limited to

- No treatment
- Optical treatment (eg special-colored lenses)
- Surgical treatment (eg orbicularis orbicuclectomy)

Procedure for Botox™ treatment

Dr Then will perform Botox™ therapy in the clinic. You will be comfortably seated in a procedure chair and local anaesthetic drops placed into your eyes. The areas of the eyelid which will be injected with Botox™ are cleaned with an alcohol wipe.

The Botox™ therapy will consist of multiple injections of small doses of Botox™ into the planned areas to give the most effective relief of your blepharospasm or hemifacial spasm. There will be a brief stinging discomfort with each injection. After the procedure is complete, you will be asked to rest in our waiting room for approximately 10 minutes to ensure that you are feeling well before leaving the clinic.

Risks of Botox™

These include but are not limited to:

- Bruising
- Undercorrection (not enough effect) or overcorrection (too much effect)
- Facial asymmetry (one side looks different than the other)
- Dry eye from incomplete closure of eyelids
- Paralysis of a nearby muscle leading to: droopy eyelid, double vision, inability to close eye, difficulty whistling or drinking from a straw
- Generalized weakness
- Permanent loss of muscle tone with repeated injection
- Flu-like syndrome or respiratory infection
- Nausea or headache
- Development of antibodies to Botox™ leading to loss of, or reduced, effect
- Botox™ contains human-derived albumin and carries a theoretic risk of virus transmission. There have been no reports of disease transmission through Botox™.

Contraindications

You should not have Botox™ if: you are pregnant; nursing; allergic to albumin; have an infection, skin condition, or muscle weakness at the site of the injection; or have Eaton-Lambert syndrome, Lou Gehrig's disease, or myasthenia gravis.

Patient acceptance of risk

It is impossible for Dr Then to inform of every possible complication that may occur. Results cannot be guaranteed and more treatment/surgery may be necessary.

We confirm you will sign a consent form with Dr Then to proceed with this treatment.

Dr Then will answer any questions to your satisfaction and costs of having Botox™ therapy will be explained.

If you have any additional queries, please do not hesitate to call Peel Vision, 9535 4321.

