

# Botulinum Toxin Injections for Blepharospasm or Hemifacial Spasm

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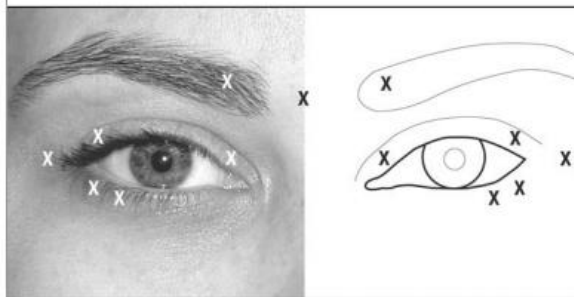
This material will help you understand the basics of botulinum toxin injections, and help you prepare for the procedure.

## What are botulinum toxin injections?

Botulinum toxin type A (Botox<sup>®</sup>, Dysport, Xeomin) is a protein that causes muscle weakness. When it is injected into a specific muscle, it causes the area to relax. Botulinum toxin injections are an effective treatment for different types of muscle spasms including blepharospasm and hemifacial spasm.

## What should I expect on the day of my injections?

On the day of your injections, you will arrive at the Kellogg Eye Center or Taubman Clinic. You will have the injections in a regular exam room or clinic procedure room. Your doctor will use a small needle to inject the appropriate amount of botulinum toxin into the areas around your eyelid and brow shown in the image below. The whole procedure will take a few minutes.



## **What should I expect after the injections?**

You can resume normal activities right away after receiving your injections. Be careful not to rub the injection sites. This may make the toxin spread to other areas.

## **When will I notice results?**

Usually, people notice improvements in their symptoms within 1 to 14 days. Let your doctor know if you do not have any improvement or if the change is small. Your doctor may decide to adjust your dosage or injection pattern.

## **Are there complications after having botulinum toxin injections for blepharospasm or hemifacial spasm?**

Botulinum toxin injections are a safe treatment. The most common side effects are:

- Pain, swelling or bruising at the injection site
- Dry eye

The symptoms of dry eye include irritation and sensitivity to light. If you have dry eye, you can use artificial tears or ointment to help keep your eye moist. Less common side effects of botulinum toxin injections include:

- Drooping upper eyelid
- Double vision

All of these side effects are temporary. Serious side effects are unlikely, but possible. In very rare cases, botulinum toxin injections can cause muscle weakness, loss of bladder control, trouble breathing, or difficulty swallowing. Call your doctor immediately if you have any of these symptoms.

### **When will I need another round of botulinum toxin injections?**

Typically, the effects of the injections will last 3 months. You can receive more injections when you begin having symptoms again. The benefits of the injections will not decrease as you have more treatments.

**For more information, scan this code with your smartphone or visit the website listed.**



<http://www.eyecareamerica.org/eyecare/treatment/botox/>

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