

Contact Details

If you have any questions concerning your injection please speak to your Orthoptist or a member of the Healthcare Team that has been caring for you.

**Tell them you have had a Botulinum
Toxin (Botox) Injection**

Eye Unit : 01782 676001

www.uhnm.nhs.uk/our-services/orthoptics



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Patient Information Leaflet

Botulinum Toxin Injection For Squints



Please speak to a member of staff if you need this leaflet in large print, braille, audio or another language

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What happens after the procedure?

You will need to rest for a short while afterwards in the Department until you feel happy to leave.

The treatment takes effect within 2 to 3 days and will be at its most effective 2 weeks afterwards.

The effect can last from 6 weeks to 3 months and then gradually wears off.

Do I need to return to the clinic?

You will be seen 2 weeks after the injection.

If the injection has not produced an adequate effect, it may be necessary to repeat the injection.

If required you will be added to the next Botox list.

Botox temporarily can straighten the eyes for patients with long standing squints and is used to determine whether permanent double vision would occur after squint surgery. It also helps with surgical planning.

Treating loss of control of a latent squint reduces double vision and headache and may allow the patient to regain long-term control without the need for surgery.

Is a Botox injection an alternative to squint surgery?

If surgery or anaesthesia is not appropriate for the patient then Botox may be used to treat squints.

In most cases, the effect of Botox is temporary. The injection has to be repeated every few months and it may result in a permanent effect.

Can the treatment affect my general health?

Botox is a safe procedure and has been used to treat eye conditions for more than 25 years.

- The dose used in the eye muscle is very small and there is no risk to general health, even after repeated injections.
- There is no risk of Botulism or food poisoning.
- Although there is no known risk to pregnant women, it is recommended that the treatment is postponed until after pregnancy.
- Allergic reactions are rare.

Are there any side effects?

Side effects can occur as the paralysis of the muscle wears off and the eye will gradually straighten.

These include:

- A slight ache in the eye or eyelids immediately after the injection. If you do not feel any better after an hour, you can take pain relief, such as Paracetamol.
- Drooping of the eye lid.
- Eye irritation with some bloodshot appearance.
- Difficulty closing /moving the eye.
- Some bruising may occur on the eye or eyelids.
- Disorientation can be caused. If this proves to be a problem, prisms or a cover for the eye, can be given to help with symptoms. A reversal of the direction of the squint (squint can turn the opposite way). This will have been discussed with you before the injection.
- Double vision may be experienced different to that you experienced before the surgery. If you have significant double vision, you should not drive unless you cover one eye.
- Damage to the eye or vision is rare however it can happen if the needle penetrates the coating of the eye. Infection or bleeding inside the eye can happen but it is extremely rare.

How do I prepare for the procedure?

You should bring someone with you to the appointment as you will not be able to drive.

Do not wear facial make-up or false eyelashes on the day as this makes it more difficult for the electrodes to be attached to the skin.

What happens during the procedure?

- The procedure should not be painful and only takes a very short time to carry out.
- Anaesthetic drops are used to numb the surface of the eye.
- The skin in two small areas on your forehead will be prepared so that the electric pads can be attached.
- Two wires are attached to these pads to monitor the position of the injection using an EMG (Electromyographic) machine.
- The EMG machine will monitor the exact site of the injection by detecting the electrical activity of the muscle which can be heard through a loudspeaker connected to a monitor during the injection.
- You will be asked to move your eye right and left or up and down during the procedure.