PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

OnabotulinumtoxinA

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

Brand Names: US

Botox; Botox Cosmetic

Brand Names: Canada

Botox; Botox Cosmetic

Warning

- Severe effects of this drug may affect parts of the body away from where it was injected. Signs can happen hours to weeks after the injection. Swallowing and breathing problems can be deadly. The risk is greatest in children with certain muscle problems (spasticity) but can happen in all people. Swallowing problems may last for several months. Call your child's doctor right away if your child has blurred eyesight or sees double, change in voice, drooping eyelids, or loss of strength or weakness all over the body. Call your child's doctor right away if your child is not able to control the bladder or has trouble breathing, speaking, or swallowing.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat muscle problems around the eye.
- It is used to treat muscle problems that lead to spasms.
- It is used to treat neck pain and abnormal placement of the head due to a certain health problem called cervical dystonia.
- It is used to treat loss of bladder control in certain people.
- If your child has been given this drug for some other reason, talk with the doctor about the benefits and risks. Talk with the doctor if you have questions or concerns about giving this drug to your child.

What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?

For all uses of this drug:

- If your child is allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had.
- If your child has an infection where the shot will be given.
- If your child has a disease that affects the muscles and nerves like myasthenia gravis, Lambert-Eaton syndrome, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

For loss of bladder control:

- If your child has any of these health problems: Trouble passing urine or a urinary tract infection (UTI).
- If your child is not able to empty the bladder without help.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell the doctor and pharmacist about all of your child's drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe to give this drug with all of your child's other drugs and health

problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug your child takes without checking with the doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?

- Tell all of your child's health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child's doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Talk with the doctor if your child has had a botulinum toxin product in the last 3 or 4 months.
- Have your child avoid tasks or actions that call for alertness or clear eyesight until you see how this drug affects your child. These are things like riding a bike, playing sports, or using items such as scissors, lawnmowers, electric scooters, toy cars, or motorized vehicles.
- When this drug has been used for reasons it has not been approved for, severe side effects like feeling very weak and trouble swallowing have happened. Sometimes, these severe side effects have been deadly. In some cases, people already had trouble swallowing or other health problems. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug is made from human plasma (part of the blood) and may have viruses that may cause disease. This drug is screened, tested, and treated to lower the chance that it carries an infection. Talk with the doctor.

If your child is pregnant or breast-feeding a baby:

- Talk with the doctor if your child is pregnant, becomes pregnant, or is breast-feeding a baby. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to your child and the baby.

What are some side effects that I need to call my child's doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your child's doctor or get medical help right away if your child has any of the following signs

or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

For all uses of this drug:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of infection like fever, chills, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, more sputum or change in color of sputum, pain with passing urine, mouth sores, or wound that will not heal.
- Change in eyesight, eye pain, or severe eye irritation.
- If bright lights bother your child's eyes.
- Drooping eyebrows.
- Dizziness or passing out.
- Seizures.
- Heart attack and abnormal heartbeats have happened after use of this drug. Sometimes, this has been deadly. Call your child's doctor right away if your child has chest pain or pressure, or an abnormal heartbeat.

For loss of bladder control:

- Signs of a urinary tract infection (UTI) like blood in the urine, burning or pain when passing urine, feeling the need to pass urine often or right away, fever, lower stomach pain, or pelvic pain.
- Trouble passing urine.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your child's doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away:

- Irritation where the shot is given.

- Neck pain.
- Pain in arms or legs.
- Headache.
- Less blinking.
- Dry eyes.
- Dry mouth.
- Cough.
- Flu-like signs.
- Back pain.
- Runny nose.
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Mild fever.
- Upset stomach.
- Feeling sleepy.
- Signs of a common cold.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your child's doctor. Call your child's doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best given?

Give this drug as ordered by your child's doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- It is given as a shot.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

- Call the doctor for an office visit.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your child's doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

General drug facts

- If your child's symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child's doctor.
- Do not share your child's drug with others and do not give anyone else's drug to your child.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your child's doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific

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If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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