OnabotulinumtoxinA

This information from Lexicomp® 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**

- Very bad side effects have happened when this drug has spread from where it is being used. These signs can happen within hours up to weeks after the shot. Swallowing and breathing problems can cause death. The risk is greatest in children with current muscle problems. Call your child’s doctor right away if your child has blurred eyesight, 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 his/her bladder, is seeing double, 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 spasms of the neck.
• 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?

• If your child has an allergy to this drug or any part of this drug.
• If your child is allergic to any drugs like this one or any other drugs, foods, or other substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had, like rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.
• If your child has an infection where the shot will be given.
• If your child is using this drug for loss of bladder control and your child has a bladder infection or is not able to pass urine.

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 for your
child to take this drug with all of his/her 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.

- Do not switch between different forms of this drug without first talking with the doctor.

- When this drug has been used for reasons it has not been approved for, very bad side effects like feeling very weak and trouble swallowing have happened. Sometimes, these very bad side effects have been deadly. Most of the time, 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:

- 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.

- Trouble swallowing or speaking.

- Very bad muscle pain or weakness.

- Change in eyesight, eye pain, or very bad eye irritation.
• Seeing double.
• Eyelid droop.
• Drooping eyebrows.
• Dizziness or passing out.

**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.
• 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.

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.

• This drug will be given to your child by a doctor.
• It is given as a shot into the muscle(s) causing the spasms.
• It may be given as a shot into the skin near the parts where there is sweating.

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 a list of all your child’s drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your child’s doctor.

• Talk with your child’s doctor before giving your child any new drug, including prescription or OTC, natural products, or vitamins.

• 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 information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific patient. This
information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine.

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If you have any questions, contact a member of your healthcare team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5:00 PM, during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit [www.mskcc.org/pe](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

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