

You will be seen by the anaesthetist before the procedure and any questions or concerns relating to the anaesthetic can be asked at this time. Your child is likely to be away from the ward for approximately an hour and a half. Once they are awake in recovery you will be allowed to wait with them until they can be transferred back to the Children's ward.

On the ward your child will need to eat, drink and pass urine before going home that day. Occasionally children need to stay overnight and be discharged the following day. Your child will have small dressings over their injection sites. These can be removed after 48 hours, then your child can bathe as normal.

Follow up

Follow up is in clinic 6 months after the procedure. In the meantime your child should carry on with their regular physiotherapy and home exercises.

If you have any concerns after the procedure contact the Paediatric Orthopaedic Team:

ruh-tr.paediatricorthopaedicteam@nhs.net

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG
01225 428331 www.ruh.nhs.uk

Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital.

Email ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net or telephone 01225 825656/826319.

Botulinum toxin injection in children

Paediatric Patient Information



What is Botulinum Toxin?

Botulinum toxin is a naturally occurring substance created by the Clostridium Botulinum bacteria. When purified and used in very small, measured doses, it can relax excessive muscle contraction. This treatment has been used to treat several conditions such as Cerebral Palsy and other neurological disorders.

How does it work?

The botulinum toxin is injected directly into the muscles, and works locally where it has been injected. It acts to block the signals between the nerve endings and muscle fibres around the injection site, leading to muscle relaxation. The effect from the injection can vary between children. Some effect is usually seen a few days after the injection, with the peak effect often not seen until 4-6 weeks later. The Botulinum's chemical effect normally lasts for about 3 months after the injection. However the functional benefits can last longer, in some cases this can be as long as 1 year.

Are there any side effects?

As with any medical intervention or treatment, there may be some associated side effects from Botulinum injections. These injections have been used safely in the UK for the last 20+ years, with serious adverse events being rarely reported.

To minimise the potential for these side effects to develop, the dose of Botulinum Toxin to be used is very carefully calculated and the sites for injection are meticulously selected.

The most common side effects are:

- Aching around the injection site
- Weakness in the injected muscles or surrounding muscles
 - This is temporary, but may make balance more challenging in the short term
- Mild flu- like symptoms
- Very occasionally temporary difficulty with swallowing and bladder control

Preparing for the injection

We will initially talk to you about Botulinum injections during an appointment clinic. You will then be seen again in clinic to discuss the procedure, the benefits it may provide and the alternative treatment options. The Botulinum injection will be done under a general anaesthetic in theatre. Before the procedure the anaesthetist will answer any questions or concerns you may have relating to the anaesthetic. A video to help prepare your child for their treatment in theatre can be found on the RUH website:

https://www.ruh.nhs.uk/patients/services/clinical_depts/paediatrics/videos

You will be advised in clinic what time to come into the Children's ward on the day of the procedure and when your child should stop eating and drinking before the anaesthetic.

Injection Day

The nurses on the ward will apply a local anaesthetic cream with an adhesive dressing to your child's hand/ arm. This allows us to put in a cannula (drip) with minimal pain.