

JOURNAL-BASED CME ARTICLE

Meta-Analysis of Botulinum Toxin A Detrusor Injections in the Treatment of Neurogenic Detrusor Overactivity After Spinal Cord Injury



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Statement of Need

Neurogenic detrusor overactivity (NDO) is a common secondary issue after spinal cord injury (SCI). It is caused by spontaneous, involuntary contractions of the bladder wall during urinary filling which can be associated with reduced bladder wall compliance and elevated filling pressures. This can result in vesico-ureteral reflux and even renal failure. Current treatments to facilitate bladder storage typically include anticholinergic drugs. Unfortunately, this method of treatment is not a long-lasting solution since overactivity resumes almost immediately after discontinuing anticholinergic medication. In addition, some patients do not tolerate anticholinergic medication, or do not have an adequate response to the medication.

Need was identified to examine the effectiveness of botulinum toxin A (BTX A) on neurogenic detrusor overactivity (NDO) in individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI). Trials examining the use of BTX-A injections into the detrusor wall in treatment of NDO after SCI were, outcomes of interest were assessed before and after treatment with a single injection of BTX. A meta-analysis of fourteen studies representing data from 734 subjects were included.

This journal-based activity has been planned and developed in accordance with the Essential Areas and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the sponsorship of Professional Education Services Group (PESG).

Accreditation Statement

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All other health care professionals completing continuing education credit for this activity will be issued a certificate of participation.

Educational Objectives

To support the attainment of knowledge, competence, and performance, the learner should be able to achieve the following objectives:

1. Identify the effectiveness of botulinum toxin A (BTX A) on neurogenic detrusor overactivity (NDO) in individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI).
2. List the clinical effects of the use of BTX A on neurogenic detrusor overactivity.
3. Compare study results used in the meta analysis.

Planning Committee

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Faculty Profiles & Disclosure Information

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No relevant financial relationships to disclose.

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This program is intended for physicians and healthcare professionals responsible for the comprehensive care for individuals with chronic illness and disabilities.

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This continuing education activity is active starting August 1, 2013 and will expire July 31, 2014.

Estimated time to complete this activity – 2.0 hours

Abstract

Objective: To examine the effectiveness of botulinum toxin type A (BTX-A) on neurogenic detrusor overactivity (NDO) in individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI).

Data Sources: MEDLINE, CINAHL, EMBASE, and PsycINFO databases were searched for all relevant articles published from 1980 to June 2012.

Study Selection: Trials examining the use of BTX-A injections into the detrusor wall in the treatment of NDO after SCI were included if (1) $\geq 50\%$ of study sample comprised subjects post-SCI; (2) outcomes of interest were assessed before and after treatment with a single injection of BTX-A; and (3) the sample size was ≥ 3 .

Data Extraction: A standardized mean difference $\pm$ SE (95% confidence interval) was calculated for at least 1 of the following outcomes in every study: postvoid residual urine volume, reflex detrusor volume, bladder capacity, bladder compliance, catheterization frequency, and maximum flow rate. Results from all studies were then pooled using a random-effects model. Treatment effect sizes were interpreted as small, >0.2 ; moderate, >0.5 ; or large, >0.8 .

Data Synthesis: Fourteen studies representing data from 734 subjects were included. After BTX-A injection, large treatment effects were observed in postvoid residual urine volume, reflex detrusor volume, bladder capacity, bladder compliance, and catheterization frequency ($P < .01$). Rate of incontinence episodes was reduced from 23% to 1.31% after BTX-A treatment. No significant decrease in max flow rate was observed ($P = .403$).

Conclusions: Results of the meta-analysis indicate BTX-A is effective in treating NDO after SCI. The use of BTX-A was associated with a decrease in incontinence episodes, catheter use, and bladder pressures.

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Neurogenic detrusor overactivity (NDO) is a common secondary issue after spinal cord injury (SCI). It is caused by spontaneous, involuntary contractions of the bladder wall during urinary filling that can be associated with reduced bladder wall compliance and elevated filling pressures. This can result in vesicoureteral reflux and even renal failure.¹ Current treatments to facilitate bladder storage typically include anticholinergic drugs.² Unfortunately, this method of treatment is not a long-lasting solution because overactivity resumes almost immediately after discontinuing anticholinergic medication. In addition, some patients do not tolerate anticholinergic medication or do not have an adequate response to the medication.

When treatment with anticholinergic drugs fails, alternative bladder management options, such as botulinum toxin type A (BTX-A), are recommended by the Paralyzed Veterans of America clinical practice guidelines for bladder management in individuals with SCI³ and in the American Urological Association guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of overactive bladder among non-SCI adults.⁴ Botulinum toxin type A is produced by the gram-positive anaerobic bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. The toxin acts on presynaptic nerve terminals, inhibiting release of acetylcholine and effectively paralyzing neurologic activity,⁵ but the effects are not permanent; therefore, repeat injections are required. Nerve terminals develop new acetylcholine releasing sites and become functional over a period of 3 to 9 months, although this regrowth process is both dose and site dependent.⁶

Injections of BTX-A into the detrusor muscle for NDO treatment was first described by Schurch et al^{7,8} more than a decade ago. As a treatment for NDO, BTX-A works to relax detrusor muscle tissues, allowing the bladder to expand and fill to greater volumes while maintaining low bladder compliance. Therapeutic benefits include a decrease in the frequency of catheter use,⁹ improved bladder

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No commercial party having a direct financial interest in the results of the research supporting this article has conferred or will confer a benefit on the authors or on any organization with which the authors are associated (Mehta, Hill, McIntyre, Foley, Hsieh, Ethans, Teasell, Loh, Wolfe).

A commercial party having a direct financial interest in the results of the research supporting this article has conferred or will confer a financial benefit on the author or one or more of the authors. Welk has received speaker fees from, and has been on advisory boards for Allergan. No compensation was directed toward work on this publication.

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