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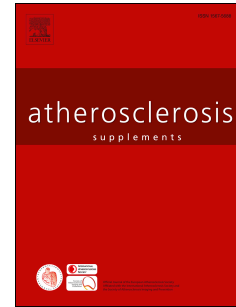
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Therapeutic Plasma Exchange in a rare case myasthenic Crisis after Botox injection

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Abstract

Background and aims

Botulinum toxin (Botox) injections are used as a cosmetic treatment to decrease wrinkles in face and chin. Being a neurotoxic agent it minimizes muscle activity, while side effects are usually rare. This article subsequently presents one case of these rare effects.

Case

A 30-year-old woman presenting with ptosis, diplopia, dysarthria, dysphagia and muscle weakness was admitted to our hospital. She had no history of disease. For cosmetic reasons, she had three Botox injections during the preceding months. On physical examination, muscle weakness 4/5 (cervical extensor, ocular and pharynx) was detected and a diagnosis of myasthenia gravis was made. Protective artificial ventilation was necessary. As a consequence, eight sessions of 2.5 liter volume Therapeutic Plasma Exchange (TPE) were applied using normal saline / albumin as substitute. Due to TPE, her muscle force and clinical condition improved. Artificial ventilation could be stopped.

Conclusions

Clinical symptoms of myasthenia gravis and systemic Botox effects are very similar. This should be taken into consideration during medical history taking. The injection of high doses of Botox

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