Lewis Headache Center

Botox (OnabotulinumtoxinA)

Barrow Neurological Institute

What is Botox?

Botox (AKA onabotulinumtoxinA) is a purified protein made by a bacteria called clostridium botulinum. When used in chronic migraine, Botox changes the pain circuits by preventing a chemical to release. By preventing this chemical, nerves send less pain signals, decreasing migraines.

Who can get Botox?

Botox is approved for chronic migraine, which means 15 or more headache days per month. To get coverage, normally at least two previous medication attempts from a list of approved options is required.

What does Botox involve?

- Done in clinic every 12 weeks (three months)
- Takes 15 minutes
- Not sedating (can drive & return to work)
- 31 injections
- No numbness
- Mild pain, potentially worse during a migraine attack

How quickly does it work?

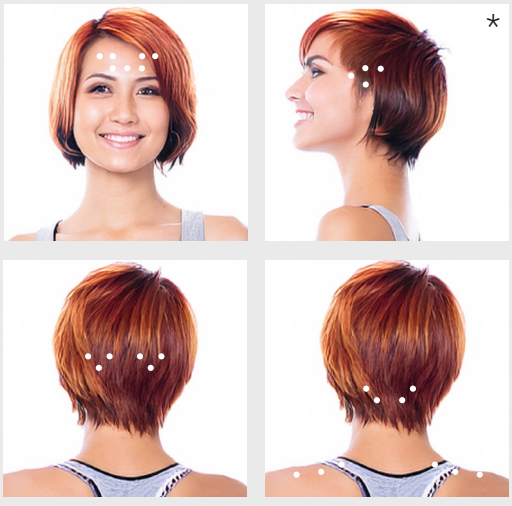
- Botox takes time to work because it is changing your pain pathways. Don't be discouraged if you don't immediately feel better.
- We recommend trying it at least three consecutive botox treatments before determining its effectiveness.
- It can take up to two weeks to see an initial response. At first, the changes may be subtle like a decrease in migraine frequency, severity, or duration.

What can I do after the Botox procedure?

The Botox will be **placed in an exact spot**, but it can be **moved to a wrong location if it is rubbed**:

- **No massages, exertional exercise, acupuncture, physical therapy for remainder of the day**
- **No rubbing your face for 24 hours, but you can lightly touch or wash if needed**

BOTOX® Injection Sites



*Injections are on both the right and left side of the head.

Good News

- Not a pill
- No fatigue, nausea, or weight gain
- No drug interactions
- Minimal absorption into bloodstream

Possible Side Effects

- Neck pain
- Droopy eyebrow/lid
- Headache or migraine
- Muscle stiffness, weakness