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If you have any problems or questions, please contact the Eye Care Centre on 01270 612209.

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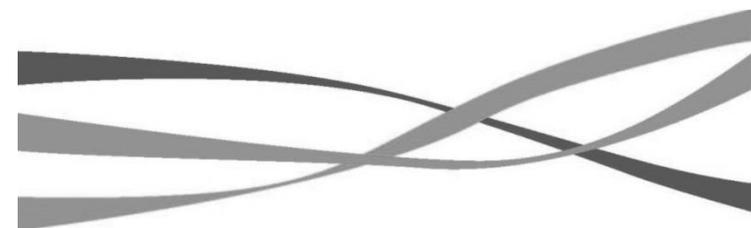
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Botulinum Toxin for Squints

Information for patients



What is Botulinum Toxin?

Botulinum Toxin is a protein produced by bacteria called Clostridium Botulinum.

The medical therapeutic value was discovered during the 1960s. It is used to cause a paralysis (weakness) of the muscle into which it has been injected. It works by blocking the nerve's signal to stop the muscle contracting.

Botulinum Toxin injections are used as a temporary treatment to straighten a squint.

The two main reasons for using Botulinum Toxin are:

- To give additional information about a squint to help decide if an operation would be helpful, especially to investigate the risk of double vision.
- To correct a small angle squint instead of an operation. The effects are usually considered to be temporary, although permanent changes in the squint position can occasionally occur.

What is the treatment procedure?

Treatment is carried out in the Treatment Centre by a specially trained Eye Doctor. You will have electrodes placed on the skin around your eye. These are connected to a special machine which identifies the muscles that move the eye.

Most patients will be suitable for local anaesthetic eye drops in order to numb the surface of your eye. However, you still may feel some discomfort when the injection is given.

What happens after the procedure?

It takes one to five days for the effects of the Botulinum Toxin to start working and the eye to begin to straighten. The maximum effect is at five to seven days, although Botulinum Toxin does not always take effect.

An appointment to measure the effect of the treatment will be made in the Orthoptic Department about one to two weeks after the injection.

What are the side effects and complications?

- Double vision can occur
 - This may be part of the investigation into the squint and suitability for surgery and or
 - As a result of insufficient or excessive effect and or
 - Spread into adjacent muscles
- Droopy eyelids may occur. This can be variable but will resolve eventually
- Minor bruising around the injection site - often mild and resolves fairly swiftly

These side effects are usually temporary but may last up to three months, although this can be longer in some cases.

There is a very rare risk of the needle entering the eye. Infection, haemorrhage or retinal detachment could cause loss of vision.

The website www.squintclinic.com has been created by eye care professionals to provide information for patients and parents about glasses, squints and other eye conditions.