

The side effect of Botulinum toxin A injection for position of the eyelid

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Abstract

Authors report about a case illustrating the possibility of negative influence of repeated application of a derivate of Botulotoxin A on the eyelid position in older woman. The indication for successful surgical treatment was chronic entropion of lower lid. This was initially ineffectively treated by means of repeated intradermal injections of in this neurotoxin. Histological examination of the excised skin and subcutis samples taken during entropion plastic surgery showed unfavorable and irreversible changes including especially scarring of the eyelid and atrophy of the stripped muscles. Always we have to consider the frequency of application, because repeatedly used derivate of this neurotoxine causes irreversible changes in cutaneous and subcutaneous tissue.

Introduction

Botulotoxin is a natural bacterial toxin produced by the anaerobic spore-forming rod-shaped bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. The actual effect resides in a blockade of the release of acetylcholine in the presynaptic membrane of the neuromuscular transmission, in other words a blockade of cholinergic neuromuscular transmission. This principle is used in the treatment of local muscular spasms. In addition to neurology, the principle of this blockade has been used also in ophthalmology, which was the pioneer of its use. At present the most widely used derivatives of this neurotoxin remain Onabotulinumtoxin A (Botox[®]) and Abobotulinumtoxin A (Dysport[®])-

Case report

A 90-year old woman was examined at outpatient Eye Department of Ophthalmic Clinic of Faculty Hospital Královské Vinohrady in Prague for persisting entropion of the lower left eyelid (fig.1, left-hand) in April 2007. Repeated injections of Dysport[®] were administered anamnesticly over course of three years, only with temporary effect, as stated by the patient. This woman was well aware of this condition, since afflicted eye was dominant, visual acuity 0,25 with correction +10 D comb +1, D ax 120° for postoperative aphakia. In the right eye the vision was decreased to hand movement in front of the eye because of severe amblyopia. Over the course of three applications from June 2003 to November 2005, 100 IU Dysport[®] was administered into lower eyelid in five points. A classic picture of involution entropion was found upon our initial examination, characterized by a spontaneous rolling over of the lower eyelid against the eye, which was not accompanied by spasm. Epiphora was only in connection with trichiasis. The condition was treated by plastic surgery of the lower eyelid with myrth cutting of the skin and subcutis down to the orbicular muscle, which underwent partial resection in the surface layers six months after the last application of Dysport[®]. Three months after the surgery the position of the eyelid was normalized, and the condition was permanent.

The results of histological examination

The resected part of the skin and subcutis showed two types of pathological changes (Figure. 1, right-hand). The first type of change was uneven scarring of corium and adjacent subcutis, in places also with residual microscopic structures of non-specific granulation tissue and microscopic residua of haematoma, evidently originating in connection with previous injection application (Figure. 1, top). The second observed type of changes was atrophy of fascicles of the stripped muscle with attenuation of their individual fibres and secondary fibroproductive enlargement of their interstitium (Figure. 1, down).

Discussion

The use of derivatives of Botulotoxin A are at present being widely applied and enjoying a boom in modern industrial states primarily in the field of cosmetic medicine, which is very popular above all in the USA. Out of a total sum of 11 billion dollars spent clients in 2007, 3 billion alone was spent on the application of Botulotoxin A, primarily Botox[®] [1]. Wrinkles in the area of the forehead and periorbital region can be positively cosmetically influenced with use Botox[®], but this procedure is not approved by the FDA and considered to be off-label [2]. After local application there may appear local pain and haematomas, headache, ptosis of the upper eyelids and eyebrows and a range of further changes [1,3]. In the Czech study there was described irreversible atrophy of the stripped muscle of the eyelids in direct connection with application of a derivate of Botulotoxin A. Details of this problem are described in the Archives of Czech and Slovak Ophthalmology of Society (www.

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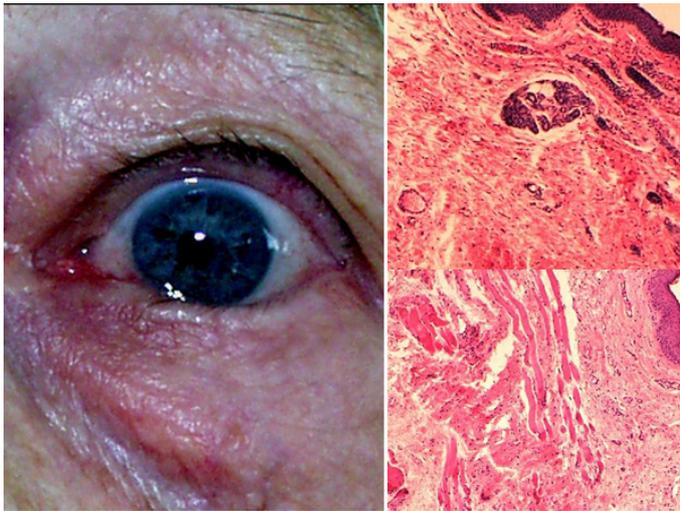


Figure 1. Entropion of the lower left eyelid (left) and scarring of eyelid on surface with non-specific granulation tissue (top), scarring and atrophy of muscle in eyelid (down) , / colouring HE, enlargement 100x.

oftalmologie.com). At the same occasion, the identical authors report on an extensive literature analysis of positive and negative influence of this neurotoxine from the medical point of view [4].

FDA approved the application of a derivate of Botulotoxin A (Botox[®]) in 1989 in the indication of strabismus and blefarospasmus. Additional ophthalmic indications are not licensed. The first scientific publication on the clinical use of a derivate of Botulotoxin A in ophthalmology, dated 1980, is linked to the name of professor A.B. Scott [5], who used it in the treatment of strabismus as an alternative of the surgical procedure. It should be used under certain caution with regard to indications of its applications, since it has a more variable result than classic surgical treatment [6, 7]. The secondary side effects such as above all vertical deviation, as well as ptosis etc. [8] are decisively in favour of a negative standpoint, 24 % in the case of Dysport[®] and 55 % in the case of Botox[®] [7]. Extensive studies about blepharospasmus demonstrated a fundamentally positive therapeutic effect of a derivate of Botulotoxin A in the cases of this disorder, unlike previously used avulsion of the facial nerve [9,10]. A favorable effect of treatment was recorded in 57 %

of patients, whom a significant improvement was recorded in 44 % [10]. All forms of injection products of Botulotoxin A remain a fundamental medicament for blepharospasmus at the present time [11, 12].

Conclusion

The case-report draw attention to histologically verified adverse changes in the structure of eyelid following repeated application of a derivate of Botulotoxin A. Always we have to consider the frequency of application, because repeatedly used derivates of this neurotoxine may cause irreversible changes in cutaneous and subcutaneous tissue.

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