

Patient Information Sheet for Botox Injections for Migraine

- Botox for migraine is a series of 31 injections at defined sites, based on the protocol used for the clinical trials. The injections are over the eyes, forehead, above both ears, the back of the head and tops of the shoulders
- It is a therapeutic procedure with proven benefit in patients with long term migraine who are having more than 15 days of headache a month
- The majority of people have some response although that can vary from minimal to a very good improvement
- Side effects include discomfort of the injections, bleeding, short-lived swelling at the injection site, bruising and introduction of infection. Having the procedure can rarely cause people to feel faint.
- A less common side effect is weakness in the area of the injections, predominantly in the forehead. It is possible to get some drooping of the eyebrow or eyelid and a tight or static feeling across the forehead. If these happen they can last for a few days into weeks but will get better. As it is broken down under the skin, Botulinum toxin is unlikely to make you feel unwell although some people feel tired, with some head and neck discomfort, for a day or two.
- It often starts to work after a week. If it does not work, it is possible to repeat the procedure at 3 months and some people can find the second injection starts to help
- If it does work, a review at 3 months will determine whether ongoing injections are needed. It is possible to continue Botox 3 monthly for ongoing benefit.

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