

Neurology Medical Group of Diablo Valley, Inc.

Consent Form

Botulinum Toxin Injection for Blepharospasm and Hemifacial Spasm

Botulinum toxin has been approved by the Federal Drug Administration for treatment of blepharospasm and hemifacial spasm. Botulinum toxin does not cure either hemifacial spasm or blepharospasm and it may not be effective in a minority of patients. There have, however, been no serious injuries or deaths resulting from its use.

The administration of botulinum toxin is accomplished by injecting a small amount of toxin into the muscles that are in spasm. Dosage must be titrated for each individual. Any benefits resulting from botulinum toxin tend to wear off after about 3 months with a repeat injection required if benefit is to be maintained. Injections are usually done every 3 to 4 months with maximal effect peak achieved by about 2-3 weeks. Botulinum toxin is expensive. Each vial costs approximately \$400 and must be used when it is opened.

The side effects of botulinum toxin used for relieving blepharospasm or hemifacial spasm may include:

- Transient, and usually mild, facial weakness with facial injections
- Eyelid drooping (ptosis)
- Pain at the site of the injection or ecchymosis (black and blue mark) at the site of injection
- Dry eye
- Double vision
- Potential unknown long-term risks

It is also possible that as with any injection, there may be an allergic reaction or no effect from the medication. Reduced effectiveness after repeated injections is sometimes seen and rarely infection at the injection site may occur. All care will be taken to prevent these side effects. If therapy is given over a long time, atrophy and wasting in the muscle injected may occur. Occasionally patients become refractory to treatment because they developed antibodies to the toxin and in this event, therapy needs to be modified.

I have read the above information and consent to the administration of botulinum toxin.

Patient Signature

Date

Witness Signature/Date