

Botox Injections

What is Botox?

Botox is the brand name for Botulinum Toxin Type A (BTX-A). It is used to relax the muscle of the bladder wall to reduce overactive bladder (OAB). OAB may cause urinary urgency and urge incontinence. Botox can also help decrease the bladder muscles from squeezing too much, which commonly is referred to as a bladder spasm.

What happens during Botox injections?

Prior to your procedure, lidocaine, a numbing agent, will be instilled into your bladder to numb and decrease discomfort during the procedure. Then a cystoscope (an instrument that allows the provider to look inside the bladder with a small camera) is passed into the bladder. The provider will examine your bladder carefully. Next the provider will inject tiny amounts of Botox into the bladder muscle through a special needle passed through the cystoscope. After the completion of the Botox injections, the cystoscope is removed from the bladder. This procedure can be performed under local anesthesia or monitored anesthesia.

What can you expect after Botox injections?

- Hematuria (blood in the urine) may come and go, lasting a few days
- There should be a reduction in urinary urgency and frequency after about 1 week
- The maximum benefit is usually obtained after about 2-4 weeks
- Results may last about 6 months. Repeat treatments may be necessary if/when OAB symptoms return
- 6% risk of urinary retention (inability to empty the bladder completely)
 - If you are not able to empty your bladder completely, you may need to use a catheter temporarily

When should I call the doctor after my Botox injections?

Call your doctor if you experience:

- Temperature over 100.4 degrees
- Excessive chills
- Severe burning or pain with urination
- Inability to urinate

