

are breastfeeding, we strongly advise that you express your milk to use for 24-48 hours following the injection. For further information, please see our separate leaflet on the use of botulinum toxin in breastfeeding & pregnancy.

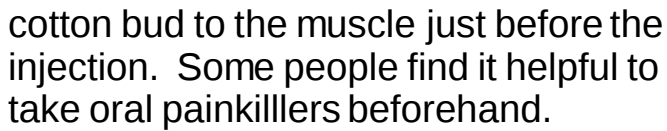
Who will I see when I attend the clinic?

You will be examined by an orthoptist and then you will see one of the doctors. If the treatment is suitable for you, you will be asked to read and sign a consent form and you will usually receive the treatment on the same day in the clinic. You should expect to be in the clinic for the whole afternoon.

What is the treatment procedure?

You will be given local anaesthetic drops to numb your eye, which may remain numb for a few hours. These drops are very effective in taking away the surface sensation of the eye, but you might still experience some discomfort when the injection is given, especially if there is scar tissue around the muscle from previous surgery. To prevent this, it may be necessary to administer extra anaesthetic drops on a

There is no known risk of harmful effects when the treatment is given to women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, but some patients prefer to postpone treatment until they have given birth or weaned their child. If you



After the local anaesthetic drops, you will be given a drop to reduce the risk of bleeding when having the injection. This drop also dilates the pupil so you may experience blurred vision for a few hours.

You will then have some wires attached to your forehead which connect to a loudspeaker – this allows the injection to be precisely placed in the muscle by monitoring the muscle's electrical activity, which is heard as a noise from the loudspeaker.

During the procedure, you will be asked to lie back on a couch. Keeping your head still throughout, we will ask you to look to one side with your eyes to place the injection, and then to the other side to use the muscle. You will hear a loud noise from the loudspeaker and the medication is injected. The injection will be held in place for 35 seconds. Occasionally, we may inject more than one muscle.

The injections are only given by qualified eye doctors, although there may be observers in the room watching the procedure.

What happens after the injection?

You will be asked whether you would prefer to wear an eye shield or your own glasses to protect your eye. This is because your eye is numb and so it

needs to be protected for about three hours after the injection, in case something blows into it without your knowledge. You may feel an ache in your eye after the injection and you can take a painkiller to relieve this if necessary.

When should I expect to see an effect from the treatment?

You will usually notice the effect about two days after the injection.

How long does the effect last?

This can vary, but it usually lasts for weeks, and occasionally months, before it wears off.

What are the possible side effects?

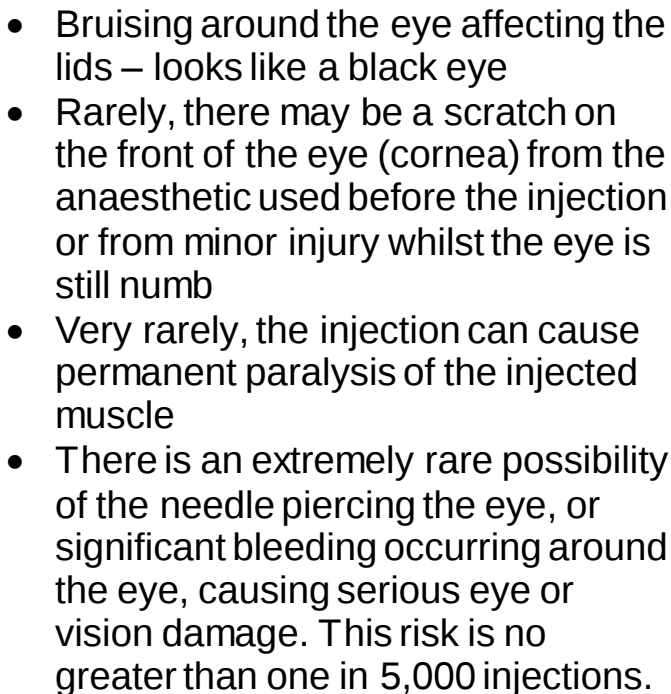
Nearly all side effects are temporary and improve with time. Potential side effects can include:

- Temporary reversal or change in the direction of the squint
- Temporary double vision

Do not drive while you have

double vision. It is very important that you discuss this with the doctor before treatment if this is of particular concern to you. For more information, please see the double vision and driving section on the DVLA website.

- Temporary drooping of the eyelid on the injected side – this usually recovers after a few weeks
- Bruising of the surface of the eye – the eye looks red (subconjunctival haemorrhage)



If you are not clear about any part of this treatment or have any questions, please ask the doctor or orthoptist to explain further. Please keep this leaflet for future reference.

**Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS
Foundation Trust
City Road, London EC1V 2PD
Phone: 020 7253 3411
www.moorfields.nhs.uk**

Phone: 020 7566 2345
Monday-Friday, 8.30am-9pm
Saturday, 9am-5pm
Information and advice on eye
conditions and treatments from
experienced ophthalmic-trained nurses.

Phone: 020 7566 2324/ 020 7566 2325
Email: moorfields.pals@nhs.net
Moorfields' PALS team provides confidential advice and support to help you with any concerns you may have about the care we provide, guiding you through the different services available at Moorfields. The PALS team can also advise you on how to make a complaint.

We like to see all of our new patients one or two weeks after the injection. If the first injection did not produce an adequate effect, we may offer a repeat injection at that visit. Sometimes we may offer to inject more than one muscle at the first or follow up visit.

Please note: there are a few patients that experience minimal or no changes to their squint, despite repeated injections.

Botulinum toxin has been used to treat eye disorders for more than 30 years. Although Botulinum toxin was originally introduced for the treatment of squint in 1979 (with our clinics successfully treating patients since 1982), the manufacturers have never applied for a drug product licence. We use it on a 'named patient' basis, and records are



Your right to treatment within 18 weeks

Under the NHS constitution, all patients have the right to begin consultant-led treatment within 18 weeks of being referred by their GP. Moorfields is committed to fulfilling this right, but if you feel that we have failed to do so, please contact our patient advice and liaison service (PALS) who will be able to advise you further (see above). For more information about your rights under the NHS constitution, visit www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs

