

Canadians living with profoundly debilitating neurological condition hope for access to new treatment option through public funding

- CDR recommends Dysport Therapeutic™ be reimbursed for reducing the signs and symptoms of cervical dystonia in adults -

Toronto, ON, NOVEMBER 7 , 2017 - Canadians affected by cervical dystonia (CD) are pleased to learn The Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) Common Drug Review (CDR) has recommended that Dysport Therapeutic™ (abobotulinumtoxinA) be reimbursed for reducing the subjective symptoms and objective signs of CD in adultsⁱ. The dystonia community is hopeful that this new treatment option will soon be accessible through public funding for all patients who could benefit from it.

Cervical dystonia is a chronic neurological condition characterized by involuntary contractions of certain muscles of the neck resulting in abnormal, sustained and painful postures of the head, neck, and shouldersⁱⁱ. It may be primary (meaning that it is the only apparent neurological disorder) or be brought about by secondary causes such as physical traumaⁱⁱⁱ.

“Patients living with this profoundly debilitating disease, and those who care for and treat them, agree that having access to a range of treatment options is important and necessary,” said Bill Saundercook, Director of the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) Canada. “Given the strength of the CDR recommendation for Dysport Therapeutic, we are confident that drug funding decision makers across Canada understand the urgency for access to this new treatment option and will act quickly to fund it.”

Accessible treatment options needed to reduce burden of pain and suffering

As CD patient Tim Williston explains, although there are different therapies approved in Canada for this condition, a treatment that works for some patients may not work for others. “I suffered greatly from pain and anxiety for two years while on treatment, with no relief, and my only choice at the time was surgery. That’s why I am so grateful for the research and discovery of any treatment option that will give those with dystonia some level of relief from the pain and suffering that is so much a part of our daily lives.”

“The impact of cervical dystonia on patients’ quality-of-life can be considerable due to severe pain and loss of movement,” remarked Dr. David Grimes MD FRCPC, Division Head of Neurology at Ottawa Hospital. “Cervical dystonia is a complex condition and patient response to treatment varies, which is why we need a well-equipped toolbox to help us manage the symptoms of CD in patients with differing treatment needs.”

About Dystonia Medical Research Foundation Canada

The Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) Canada is the only organization that is dedicated to supporting the 50,000 patients in Canada that suffer from dystonia, a neurological movement disorder that affects the nervous system. There are several forms of dystonia, and it may be a symptom of many other diseases and conditions. For over 40 years, the DMRF Canada has fought for those impacted by dystonia, working toward better treatments and a cure, funding research, providing advocacy and support, and raising awareness of this devastating disorder. Visit www.dystoniacanada.org for more information.

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ⁱ https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0512_complete_Dysport_Therapeutic_Jul_28_17_e.pdf

ⁱⁱ http://www.dystoniacanada.org/sites/dystoniacanada.org/files/2016-10/DMRF_WhatIsDystonia.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.dystoniacanada.org/whatisdystonia>