

DYSTONIA TREATMENTS

Exploring some of the medical treatment options available for patients diagnosed with dystonia

BOTULINUM TOXIN INJECTIONS

Botulinum toxin is a nerve "blocker" that binds to the nerves that lead to the muscle and prevents the release of acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter that activates muscle contractions. There is one type available in Canada sold under 3 trade names.

Type A: known by trade names Botox®, Xeomin® and Dysport®.



ORAL MEDICATION

There are several categories of medications used in the treatment of dystonia, including:

- Anticholinergics
- Benzodiazepines
- Baclofen
- Dopaminergic agents
- Tetrabenzine

Most of the medications used to treat dystonia work by affecting the neurotransmitter that execute the brain's instructions for muscle movement control.



DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION

Deep brain stimulation (DBS) is one surgical procedure used to treat a variety of neurological disorders, including dystonia. A battery-powered stimulator —essentially a brain pacemaker—is implanted in the body and delivers electrical stimulation to the areas of the brain responsible for causing dystonia symptoms. The stimulator is implanted in the chest, and extension wires connect the stimulator to leads (electrodes) deep in the brain.

