WHAT IS BLEPHAROSPASM?

Blepharospasm (uncontrollable blinking) is a type of focal dystonia, a movement disorder that causes abnormal muscle spasms, resulting in uncontrolled blinking, narrowing and even closing of the eyelid. Typically, symptoms begin in late-middle or older age, and is more than twice as frequent in women as in men. It is a condition that can be difficult to understand and a challenge to live with.

Common signs of blepharospasm may include:

- Dry eyes or watering eyes
- Light sensitivity
- Increased blinking
- Ocular pain
- Soreness around the eyes

Blepharospasm affects an estimated 20,000 to 50,000 people in the United States, with 2,000 new cases diagnosed annually.

WHAT CAUSES BLEPHAROSPASM?

It is not known what exactly causes the muscle contractions characteristic of blepharospasm.

HOW IS BLEPHAROSPASM TREATED?

Patients with blepharospasm are generally referred to ophthalmologists or neurologists for treatment.

BOTOX® (onabotulinumtoxinA) has been used to treat blepharospasm since it was approved by the FDA in 1989.
Patients treated with BOTOX® for blepharospasm may begin seeing an improvement in symptoms within the first three days, with maximum results about 1 to 2 weeks after the injection.

If a functionally impaired patient does not respond to less invasive treatments, surgical therapy to remove some or all of the muscles responsible for eyelid closure (a procedure called protractor myectomy) may be recommended. If you suffer from blepharospasm, talk to your eye care professional about treatment options.

HOW DOES BOTOX® WORK?

In patients diagnosed with blepharospasm, BOTOX® is injected by a trained medical specialist – such as a neurologist or physiatrist – using a fine needle directly into the affected muscles. BOTOX® inhibits the release of a neurotransmitter, acetylcholine, from nerve cells, blocking the signals that induce involuntary muscle contractions. The effect is temporary and when injected at labeled doses in recommended sites, BOTOX® is expected to produce results lasting up to 12 weeks, depending on the individual patient.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH BOTOX® TREATMENT?

The needles used for BOTOX® injections are very fine, but you may experience some pain, swelling, and other reactions at the injection sites. In a clinical study of patients who received BOTOX® treatment for blepharospasm, the most frequently reported adverse reactions were droopy eyelid, cornea (surface of the eye) problems, and eye dryness.
REFERENCES:


5. BOTOX® (onabotulinumtoxinA) Prescribing Information, February 2014.

For further information, please contact Allergan, Inc.’s Corporate Affairs & Public Relations Department at +1 (714) 246-4819.

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