



USE OF BOTOX™ IN DENTAL PRACTICE IN ONTARIO

The College continues to receive calls from members regarding the use of Botox™ in dental practice. Accordingly, the College wishes to confirm its position, which was published in the August/September 2007 issue of Dispatch.

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LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

In Ontario, the scope of practice statement contained in the Dentistry Act, 1991, speaks to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of a disease, disorder or dysfunction of the oral-facial complex. The College has always interpreted this to mean that there must be an oral component to any treatment rendered by a dentist.

Dentists are authorized to administer a substance by injection, but the ability to perform this controlled act is limited to the management of conditions that fall within the scope of practice of the profession. This does not include the injection of Botox™, or any other agent or material, into the extra-oral/facial tissues of a patient for cosmetic purposes.

in the news...

Health Canada is currently conducting a safety review of distant toxin spread potentially associated with Botox™ and Botox Cosmetic™ (botulinum toxin type A). A similar review is being conducted by the US Food and Drug Administration regarding Botox™, Botox Cosmetic™ and Myobloc™ (botulinum toxin type B) concerning reports of systemic adverse reactions, including respiratory failure and death, following the administration of these drugs.

Myobloc™ is not currently marketed in Canada.

When used as indicated, botulinum toxin is expected to act locally, temporarily paralyzing a muscle or group of muscles. Distant toxin spread occurs when botulinum toxin disperses in the body beyond the injection site.

For further information about the ongoing safety review, please visit the Health Canada website at www.hc-sc.gc.ca and look under the Media section.



NEED TO KNOW

- The legislation that governs the practice of dentistry in Ontario does not permit the injection of Botox™, or any other agent or material, into the extra-oral/facial tissues of a patient for cosmetic purposes.
- The unauthorized use of any agent or material may jeopardize a member's coverage under the PLP policy and may expose him or her to substantial costs in the event of a claim.

➤ RCDSO POSITION

Based on the legislative considerations already outlined, it is the College's view that Ontario dentists are not permitted to carry out the injection of Botox™, or any other agent material, into the extra-oral/facial tissues of a patient for cosmetic procedures.

One possible exception would be the use of Botox™ for certain temporo-mandibular disorders, as the management of such conditions clearly falls within the scope of the practice of dentistry. However, such use of this agent is currently considered off-label and experimental and should only be employed

by highly-trained and very experienced practitioners, usually in a hospital-based multidisciplinary clinic.

PLP PERSPECTIVE

Since it is the College's view that the use of Botox™, or any other agent or material, by injection into the extra-oral/facial tissues of a patient for cosmetic purposes would not be considered a professional service as defined under the PLP policy, errors and omissions coverage may not apply. This would depend on a case-by-case basis and the particulars of any Statement of Claim.

DENTAL ANAESTHESIA SPECIALTY

Information about how to become registered as a dental anaesthesiologist is now available online from our website at www.rcdso.org. Look for the headline under the What's New section on the home page.