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Upper limb loading in elbow flexor spastic dystonia
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Keywords: Spasticity; Spastic dystonia; Limb loading; Rehabilitation; Stroke; Upper limb function

Background.—Studies have demonstrated reduction of spastic dystonia with sustained stretch. The aim of the present work was to evaluate the effects of upper limb wrist-worn loading in a patient with elbow flexor spastic dystonia.

Methods.—A 53-year old male with left spastic hemiparesis secondary to a cerebral infarct 2 years prior has benefited from a 3-month rehabilitation program, including botulinum toxin injections at the Neurorehabilitation Day Hospital in Albert-Chenevier hospital, Créteil, France. Within this program the patient has worn a loaded wrist splint (1.5 kg) daily. Every day, he reported the total loading time together with any untoward effects in a diary. Once monthly we monitored spasticity with the Tardieu Scale and active arm function with the Modified Frenchay Scale using blinded review by two examiners.

Results.—Maximal range of passive motion against the elbow flexors (Xₑ₁) increased from 144° to 164° (+20°), angle of catch (Xₑ₂) from 92° to 116° (+24°) and active motion range (A) from 78° to 92° (+14°). Regarding active limb function, score improved by 1/10 point for three tasks involving active elbow extension.

Conclusion.—Upper limb loading may be of benefit in hemiparesis to reduce elbow flexor spastic dystonia and improve functionality.

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Treatment of scoliosis with paraspinal injection of botulinum toxin in quadriplegic woman
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Keywords: Stroke; Paraspinal; Botulinum; Toxin

Background.—Type A botulinum toxin has been used in paraspinal muscles for several conditions like stiff-person syndrome, back pain in cerebral palsy, chronic low back pain, X-linked dystonia-parkinsonism.

Methods.—A 30-year old woman developed a spastic quadriplegia with right side more involved, after a severe stroke at the age of 19. Although she was following a rehabilitation programme for several years, she only improved her ability to walk slowly for up to 30 steps unaided.

Results.—After treatment with type A botulinum toxin (Botox) for 6 years in limb muscles, during the last 2 years, she developed a scoliosis which interfered with her gait pattern. Right paraspinal thoracic muscles were injected, with botulinum toxin in 6 segments, using 20U in each site. This treatment was repeated 4 times each year. Patient improved posture in standing position and facilitated the gait pattern and velocity. She could walk more than 50 steps without assistance, without body shifting and with a faster gait speed.

Conclusions.—Administration of botulinum toxin A reduced the tone of paraspinal and improves significantly improvement of gait pattern in quadriplegic woman.

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Hereditary spastic paraparesis and intrathecal baclofen
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Keywords: Hereditary spastic paraparesis; Intrathecal baclofen; Spasticity

Background.—Intrathecal baclofen has been used to treat lower limb spasticity in hereditary spastic paraparesis. Botulinum toxin type A has also been used for the same reason.

Methods.—We present three cases of women (aged 47, 58, and 59) with hereditary spastic paraparesis treated in our PRM department.

Results.—Patients were under intramuscular antispastic treatment with 400 U of type A botulinum toxin for two years period, in hip adductors, hamstrings and triceps surae. After 4, 8, 12, 16, 20 and 24 months of botulinum toxin, Modified Ashworth Scale showed improvement of spasticity not enough to improve the gait velocity, measured with 10 m walking test. Patients were referred to Neurosurgical department where they were treated with permanent intrathecal baclofen pump, after positive test of 50 μg baclofen intrathecally. MAS score was also improved but with not significant improvement in gait pattern. Daily living activities were improved.

Conclusions.—Both botulinum toxin and intrathecal baclofen can reduce spasticity in hereditary spastic paraparesis. Walking ability of these persons is still a big question depending on the degree of paralysis and the severity of the disease.

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Botulinum toxin treatment using flexible intervals for cervical dystonia
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Keywords: Spasticity; Botulinum toxin; IncobotulinumtoxinA; Dose titration

Background.—TOWER is a prospective, Phase IV, dose titration clinical trial (NCT01603459) investigating the safety and efficacy of incobotulinumtoxinA (Xeomin®) in patients with spasticity, deemed to require doses higher than currently approved.

Methods.—Patients (18–80 years) with upper- and lower-limb spasticity of the same body side due to cerebral causes, deemed by the investigator to require total body doses up to 800U of incobotulinumtoxinA per injection cycle, will undergo 3 injection cycles (400, 600, and 800U incobotulinumtoxinA, respectively), each followed by 12- to 16-week observation periods with telephone contacts at 1 and 2 weeks and follow-up visits at 4, 8, and 12-16 weeks post-treatment. Co-primary outcome measures are adverse events and investigator’s global assessment of tolerability. Muscle tone (Ashworth Scale), Resistance to Passive Movement Scale, Functional Ambulation Classification scale, Goal Attainment Scale, Disability Assessment Scale, quality of life, antibody formation, and pulmonary function will also be assessed.

Results.—As of October 2013, patients (enrolment target 150) are being recruited at 33 sites throughout Europe, Canada and the USA.

Conclusions.—TOWER will provide important insights into the safety and efficacy of higher than currently recommended incobotulinumtoxinA doses in patients with multifocal upper- and lower-limb spasticity.

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Complications of intrathecal baclofen pump: A case report
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Keywords: Intrathecal baclofen infusion system; spasticity; intrathecal baclofen pump complications; baclofen withdrawal.

Background: Intrathecal baclofen (ITB) infusion has become a common treatment for severe spasticity. Many complications of these drug delivery systems have been reported, such as those related to improper dosing, mechanical failure of the implanted pump or catheter, or postoperative wound issues.

Methods: A 47-year-old man, with spastic paraplegia due to D4 ASIA A spinal cord injury and right upper brachial plexus lesion, with a double barrel colostomy to heal a perineal pressure sore, presented an abdominal wound dehiscence with related to dosing or mechanical implant dysfunction, which can be serious and life-threatening. It is important to inform patients about possible risks and complications of this device in order to be aware of warning symptoms.

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Sonoelastographic evaluation of forearm muscles spasticity
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Keywords: Sonoelastography; Forearm muscles; Spasticity

Background: Sonoelastography (SE), which is an ultrasound-based technique, can assess tissue elasticity. The objective of the study is to assess forearm muscles spasticity in patients with stroke.

Methods: Twenty-three stroke patients (17 males %73.9; 6 females %26.1) who had spasticity in forearm muscles (pronator teres, flexor carpi radialis, flexor carpi ulnaris, flexor digitorum superficialis, flexor carpi ulnaris) were evaluated with ultrasonography. Elasticity Index (E), which indicates the tissue elasticity, was measured using SE. E value ranged from 0 to 6 (6 indicates hardest tissue). The bulkiest part of the muscles in short axis was targeted for the measurement. SE findings in affected side were compared with unaffected side.

Results: E values and E ratio were higher in affected forearm muscles compared with unaffected forearm muscles (P<0.05).

Conclusions: The results of the study suggested that SE could be used to assess spasticity in forearm muscles.

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