

Information booklet for patients with focal spasticity receiving Dysport® (*Clostridium botulinum* type A toxin-haemagglutinin complex)



This booklet was commissioned by Ipsen Ltd, and is intended for adult patients prescribed Dysport® for the symptomatic treatment of focal spasticity (stiffness) of upper limbs, or lower limbs affecting the ankle joint.

If you get any side effects, talk to your healthcare professional. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this booklet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/> or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store. Side effects should also be reported to Ipsen via email at pharmacovigilance.uk-ie@ipsen.com or phone on 01753 627777. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

This booklet aims to provide you with information about Dysport® treatment and what to expect during the treatment process. It may also help you to talk to your healthcare professional about why you are having treatment and what you may experience.

This booklet does not replace the Patient Information Leaflet provided with this medicine. Please ask your healthcare professional for the Patient Information Leaflet for further information on this medicine. To access an online version of the Patient Information Leaflet, please visit:

<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/964/pil>

What is focal spasticity?

Spasticity is a condition which causes muscles to continuously shorten (called contraction). This contraction can lead to stiffness or tightness which can affect normal movement.



Spasticity may occur because of different medical conditions or events, including:

- stroke
- serious injury to the brain or spinal cord
- conditions, such as cerebral palsy or multiple sclerosis

Spasticity can affect adults in many different ways. Therefore, the treatment plan is unique for each patient. It is important to discuss your treatment plan in detail with your healthcare professional and agree on treatment goals.



Upper limb spasticity in adults is caused by muscle spasms in the shoulder, elbow, wrist and finger muscles.

Lower limb spasticity in adults is caused by muscle spasms in the foot, ankle or calf muscles.

Your treatment plan

Before any treatment is given, your healthcare professional will discuss your treatment goals with you; this is very important as it will help them recommend the most appropriate treatment plan.

For example, your treatment goals may be to make daily activities easier or improve your comfort when wearing a splint. The goals set may change depending on how your current treatment is working.

Therefore, it is important to openly discuss your progress during the appointments with your treating healthcare professional.

Your treatment plan may include using medicines to help with your symptoms, and may also include non-medical treatments, for example physiotherapy, occupational therapy, serial casting (a common procedure used to stretch and lengthen muscles) or using splints.



If you have any questions about your treatment, please always discuss these with your treating healthcare professional.

Your treatment

Dysport® injections have been prescribed as part of your treatment plan. These injections can help control the symptoms caused by focal spasticity, a condition that may cause spasms and/or stiffness in the joints of your upper and/or lower limbs.

How does this medicine work?

This injection contains the active substance botulinum neurotoxin type A, which is produced by the bacteria *Clostridium botulinum*. It works by stopping your muscles contracting, which helps to reduce abnormal muscle contractions known as spasms.¹

Other treatments, such as physiotherapy, or the use of splints and supporting aids, can be used alongside this medicine to help with your movement and balance. Your healthcare professional will discuss these options with you.

How will this medicine help you?

Your healthcare professional thinks these injections can help improve muscle function by reducing the stiffness in your upper or lower limbs, allowing you to move more easily.

By reducing your muscle spasms/stiffness, it can also help with movement and balance, and may therefore reduce falls or tripping over. This may help you achieve the treatment goals you had set with your healthcare professional.

What to expect from these injections¹

Because this injection works by stopping your muscles contracting, it may help reduce spasms and stiffness. It normally takes 1 week for you to start feeling symptom relief, and this may last up to 20 weeks. The effects of the injections are temporary and treatment may need to be repeated every 12 to 16 weeks.

Some other medicines or conditions may affect your treatment with Dysport®. Before you start this treatment, your treating healthcare professional will ask you a number of questions about other medicines you are taking. It is important to mention to your healthcare professional if:¹

- you are taking any other medicines with or without prescription, including antibiotics (such as gentamicin or amikacin) or muscle relaxing drugs
- you have problems swallowing
- you have any history of bronchitis, chest infections or problems with breathing
- you have had an allergic reaction to a botulinum toxin injection, human albumin or lactose in the past
- you have other problems or diseases that affect your muscles
- you bleed easily or you are taking any medicine that can thin the blood (such as aspirin, clopidogrel, heparin or warfarin)
- you have an infection where the injection will be given or the area is swollen
- your muscles at the proposed site of injection are weak or show signs of wasting
- you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you might be pregnant or are planning to have a baby. Please ask your healthcare professional for advice before taking this medicine. Dysport® is not recommended during pregnancy, unless clearly necessary, or during breast feeding, and may affect fertility
- you have a urinary tract infection. Do not use Dysport® if you have a urinary tract infection at the time of receiving treatment for leakage of urine

You may also show your healthcare professional the medicines you are taking so he/she can check for you.

How will this medicine be given?

Dysport® is given as an injection by a qualified and trained healthcare professional into the affected muscle(s). Your treating healthcare professional will decide on the required dose, which muscles should be injected and the treatment schedule based on your condition and agreed goals.¹

Sometimes your healthcare professional may use a technique called electromyography (which registers the activity of muscles) or ultrasound (which gives a picture of the muscles) to help target injection sites.

- Anaesthetic cream or cold spray may be used at the injection site to dull the needle prick for each muscle that is affected
- For those who are anxious of needles or who require more than one treatment cycle, a light sedative may be given to relieve anxiety



How long does it take for the injection to start working?¹

The time it takes for the injection to start working and the duration of the effect depends on which muscles are treated. You may see an improvement in your symptoms, including muscle stiffness and spasms, normally within 1 week after injection.



How often will injections be given?¹

Your healthcare professional may repeat the treatment approximately every 12 to 16 weeks, or as needed, but not more frequently than every 12 weeks.

If you experience any muscle weakness or problems with your vision following an injection, do not drive or use any machines and speak to your healthcare professional.¹

If you have any questions about your treatment, please speak to your healthcare professional.

What are the possible side effects of Dysport®?¹



Like all medicines, Dysport® may cause side effects, although not everyone will experience them.

As this medicine is injected into a muscle causing spasms, you may see reactions around the injected area. In very rare cases, this medicine may cause side effects which appear away from the injection site, related to the spread of the toxin effect and botulism. These symptoms have been reported from hours up to several weeks after the injection.



Seek urgent medical help if you experience the following after receiving this injection:

- double vision, blurred vision and/or drooping eyelids, excessive muscle weakness, difficulty swallowing, coughing and choking when swallowing, or difficulty speaking or breathing. These symptoms may appear hours to weeks after your injection
- you develop difficulty in your breathing, with or without swelling of the face, lips, tongue and/or throat, redness of the skin or an itchy lumpy rash (urticaria). This means you may be having an allergic reaction to the injection

Please see below some side effects that were seen in clinical trials of patients who received Dysport® injections:

Treatment of any condition (all patients):

Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people
Bruising, or pain around the site where the injection was given
Brief period of generalised weakness
Tiredness
Flu-like symptoms
Uncommon: may affect up to 1 in 100 people
Itching
Rare: may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people
Skin rashes
Sudden severe pain and weakness in shoulder and/or arm

Treatment of muscle spasms in the arm and shoulder:

Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people
Muscle weakness
Musculoskeletal pain
Pain in the hands and fingers
Uncommon: may affect up to 1 in 100 people
Difficulty in swallowing

Treatment of muscle spasms in the leg:

Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people
Difficulty in swallowing
Leg muscle weakness
Muscle pain
Fall

If you experience any side effects, talk to a healthcare professional straight away. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this booklet.



What should you do if you are given more Dysport® than you need?

If you are given more Dysport® than you need, muscles other than the ones that were injected may begin to feel weak. This may not happen straight away. If this does happen, speak to your healthcare professional immediately. Seek urgent medical help if you have difficulty breathing, swallowing or speaking.



What should you do if you forget an injection of Dysport®?

Nothing will happen if an injection is missed other than some of the spasm or muscle stiffness may return. Tell your healthcare professional and they will decide when the next injection is needed.



What should you do if you see a different healthcare professional?

If you visit a different healthcare professional for any reason regarding your condition it is important to tell them that you are receiving Dysport® injections.

Talking to your healthcare professional



Talking to your treating healthcare professional about your treatment with Dysport® and its possible side effects can help to prepare you for what to expect.

You may not see the effects of treatment immediately after injection, or your benefits may wear off before your next appointment. Therefore you may require repeat injections to relieve your symptoms. Always discuss with your healthcare professional about your treatment progress.

Some people may find visiting hospitals or having injections frightening. It may be helpful to ask your healthcare professional what your treatment process will involve and ask them to explain this to you.

Should you feel that you are not responding to treatment following the injections or the effects wear off quickly before your next appointment, please report this to your healthcare professional at your next appointment.



Stress can sometimes make your condition worse, therefore it will be helpful to discuss with your healthcare professional about any issues which may cause the stress or any alternative therapies which may be available. Do not try therapies without speaking to your healthcare professional first.

Your healthcare professional can also advise on any coping strategies or exercises to help with your condition or your rehabilitation.

If you feel that your condition is not improving, speak to your healthcare professional about this.

Following your injection it is important to follow the exercise and positioning programme prescribed by your physiotherapist or occupational therapist. This will maximise the beneficial effects of the Dysport® injection and help towards achieving your goals.

It may also be necessary to wear a splint or orthosis to give the muscles a prolonged stretch and help reduce the muscle stiffness. Your therapist will give you specific advice on using your splint/orthosis.



Additional support

If you would like additional information and support on the management of focal spasticity, ask your healthcare professional. Additional sources of support are detailed below, which include information on stroke and traumatic brain injury.

Stroke Association (www.stroke.org.uk)

The Stroke Association are a UK charity providing information and support to all those affected by stroke.

Headway – the brain injury association (www.headway.org.uk)

Headway is a UK-wide charity that works to improve life after brain injury by providing vital support, services and information to brain injury survivors, their families and carers, as well as to professionals in the health and legal fields.

NHS 111 (111.nhs.uk)

You can call 111 (free from landlines and mobile phones) or visit 111.nhs.uk when you need urgent medical help but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For further information please contact your healthcare professional.

References

1. Dysport® Patient Information Leaflet, Ipsen Ltd.
Available at: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/964/pil> and <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/7261/pil>. Accessed August 2026.

Treatment details

Contact details

You can ask the healthcare professional who is managing your spasticity to help you fill in this page.

Your treating healthcare professional is:	
Contact number:	

Appointments schedule

Time	Date	Location

Notes
