

Children with Spasticity



What is paediatric spasticity?

When muscles contract, become stiff or spasm and you can't control them, this is known as spasticity. Spasticity in children can have many different causes, though cerebral palsy is the most common.^{1,2} Children living with spasticity may experience muscle spasms in their arms or legs.³ It can be uncomfortable and painful at times, and can interfere with daily life, making it harder to play, learn and interact with others.⁴

The symptoms of spasticity^{3,4}

Each child or young person will have a different experience of spasticity and will have different symptoms. Some may have relatively mild spasticity, but for others it may be more severe. Symptoms may come and go, or they may always be present.

Typical symptoms include:

- Muscles contracting or relaxing suddenly and on their own
- Difficulty relaxing, stretching, standing or walking
- Difficulty controlling movement during an activity
- Muscle spasm when the arm or leg is lightly touched

Management^{1,2}

Children with spasticity can benefit from keeping mobile and exercising the affected part of their body. Postural management (helping to maintain body shape and position) may also be used to prevent or delay muscle contractures or skeletal issues in children and young people, as well as helping them take part in activities.

Other options include:

- **Oral medicines (tablets)**
These can be used to manage discomfort or pain, relieve muscle spasms and potentially improve the symptoms associated with functional disability
- **Injections with botulinum toxin (Dysport®)**
In children 2 years and older with cerebral palsy. In small amounts this can be used to stop a spastic muscle from contracting. Dysport is a type of botulinum toxin injection
- **Surgery**
In more severe cases, surgical interventions may be considered to release tight muscles or nerves.



Dysport for paediatric spasticity¹

Dysport works by stopping muscles contracting. Download the **About Dysport** PDF for more information. Depending on how many muscles are affected and what is important to the child during treatment, the healthcare team may decide on injections in a few different muscles.

Generally, the child (aged 2 and over) can expect to receive treatment, to treat muscle spasms in the arms or legs, with Dysport 3 or 4 times a year (every 16 to 28 weeks, but no more).



The effects of treatment

After the injection, the treatment will take effect gradually. Muscle spasms should normally improve within 2 weeks and may last up to 28 weeks in the legs and up to 34 weeks in the arms.

The child's doctor will schedule their next appointment for a follow-on injection around that timeframe.



Side effects

Some children will have unwanted, or excessive muscle weakness around the injected muscle, or experience flu-like symptoms or pain and bruising at the injection site. Numbing cream can be used to help with this.

Usually, these effects are mild and wear off relatively quickly. But sometimes they may be more severe, or bothersome. Regardless of the severity, it's important to let their doctor know—they will be able to manage the symptoms, if necessary.

For a full list of potential side effects and any safety precautions, please refer to the Package Leaflet provided with your medicine.

Next steps

Learn more about specific conditions and treatments in their individual PDFs, or visit <https://www.ipsen.com/uk-ireland/> and **contact us** if you have a specific question.

References:

1. Dysport Summary of Product Characteristics. 2025.
2. NICE. CG145. Available at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg145/resources/spasticity-in-under-19s-management-pdf-35109572514757> [Accessed August 2025].
3. Child Neurology Foundation. Spasticity. Available at: <https://www.childneurologyfoundation.org/disorder/spasticity> [Accessed August 2025].
4. Statpearls. Spasticity. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK507869> [Accessed August 2025].

Reporting of side effects:

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

This includes any possible side effects not listed in your Patient Information Leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via: HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2., Website: www.hpra.ie e-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie

Adverse events should be reported to Ipsen: Tel: +353 1 8098256, email: pharmacovigilance.uk-ie@ipsen.com.

By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.