IPSEN
Innovation for patient care

Information booklet for patients with hemifacial spasm 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 hemifacial spasm.

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 hemifacial spasm?

Hemifacial spasm is a form of localised dystonia. A dystonia is a type of uncontrollable muscle spasm. Hemifacial spasm affects the muscles on one side of the face (more frequently the left-hand side), which can cause:

- twitching around the eye
- spasms in your cheek and mouth muscles

In extreme cases, the muscle contractions may interfere with your vision. However, hemifacial spasm usually only affects one side of the face, so the other eye is rarely affected.

You may experience the following symptoms:

- muscle spasms in the muscles surrounding the eye
- the muscle spasms may then spread to other muscles on the same side of the face
- muscle spasms around the jaw and mouth

You may find your condition worsens when you:

- are tired
- under stress

You may find your condition improves when lying down.

What causes hemifacial spasm?

The causes are not yet fully understood. However, current medical opinion suggests the hemifacial spasm may be caused by irritation or compression of the facial nerve.

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 reduce pain associated with your condition, reduce abnormal movements of your facial muscles or make daily activities easier. The goals set may change depending on how your current treatment is working.

Therefore, it is important to openly discuss your progress during your 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 relaxation techniques, sensory tricks, acupuncture and dietary management.

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 hemifacial spasm.

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, therefore reducing abnormal muscle contractions known as spasms.[1]

Other treatments, such as physiotherapy, 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 abnormal movements in your eyes and jaw.

By reducing your muscle spasms, it can also help improve your vision by reducing the time that your eyelids are involuntarily closed (in spasm). This may help you achieve the treatment goals you had set with your healthcare professional.

What to expect from these injections[1]

Because this injection works by stopping your muscles contracting, it may help reduce spasms. It usually takes 2 to 4 days for you to start feeling symptom relief, with maximum effect within 2 weeks. The effects of the injections are temporary and treatment will need to be repeated approximately every 12 weeks or as needed, but not more frequently than every 12 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 medications 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 may 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?[1]

Dysport® is given as an injection by a qualified and trained healthcare professional, just under the skin into the muscles that are affected. 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.

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

You may see improvements in your symptoms within 2 to 4 days following injection with maximum effect within 2 weeks.

How often will injections be given?

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

If you experience any muscle weakness or problems with your vision, do not drive or use any machines.

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
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 hemifacial spasm:

Very common: may affect more than 1 in 10 people
Drooping of the upper eyelid
Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people
Double vision
Swelling of the eyelid
Facial muscle weakness
Dry eyes or more tears than usual
Uncommon: may affect up to 1 in 100 people
Facial paralysis
Rare: may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people
Difficulty in moving the eye
The edge of the eyelid may turn inwards towards the eyeball

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.

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.

You may not see the effects of treatment 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.

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 that may cause stress or any alternative therapies that 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.

Sometimes it may not be possible to stop the spasms in muscles around your eyes and jaw completely. If you feel that your condition is not improving, speak to your healthcare professional about this.

Additional support

If you would like additional information and support on hemifacial spasm, ask your healthcare professional about local support groups. Additional sources of support are detailed below:

The Dystonia Society (www.dystonia.org.uk)

The Dystonia Society is a national charity providing support, advocacy and information for anyone affected by dystonia.

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 hemifacial spasm to help you fill in this page.

Your treating healthcare professional is:	
Contact number:	

Appointments schedule

Time	Date	Location

Notes

Notes

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