Aesthetic Dermatology: Dr. Zenker, what are critical factors for you when injecting BoNT?

Zenker:
Botulinum toxin injections are major injectable procedures in cosmetic and aesthetic medicine. Astonishingly enough, the technique of the injection itself did not change for many years. Looking closer at this procedure, there are several critical and important factors while injecting botulinum toxin, such as individual dosing and moreover accurate dosing, precise and defined placement and last but definitely not least the patient’s comfort. Over the years we experienced an increasing demand for, of course, perfect results, but also increased comfort. So it is more than logical that the most recent innovation in the field is very welcome to physicians and patients: it’s a "toxin injector", one of a kind which hasn’t been on the market before: it’s a small, disposable, easy-to-use syringe plus needle to be used with the three major, FDA approved botulinum toxins Type A available in Europe and the U.S.

This syringe is packed with a tiny thin needle (33G, "mosquito needle"): injection pain is significantly reduced. Secondly this new needle design has a low dead space hub which contributes to reduce toxin wastage with every treatment. One other and possibly the most important aspect is that this system is equipped with an adjustable clicker system, which allows the practitioner to administer at a dose of 0.025 ml, 0.04 ml or 0.05 ml, dependent upon their choice of toxin and dilution: every click delivers 1 unit of botulinum toxin! Given all this information, this innovative so-called 3Dose syringe serves as the first botulinum toxin injection assistance of its kind.

Aesthetic Dermatology: How important is accurate dosing for the clinical outcome of BoNT injections?

Zenker:
Accurate dosing in botulinum toxin injections is extremely important! An injector is only as good as all the overall conditions. We always think that we apply the planned dose per injection point, don’t we? To my knowledge, no-one did really look at one aspect in toxin injections: the pre-clinical accuracy: we did measure if the estimated dose was always in the syringe and did find out that there was a huge variation of almost up to 20% using standard injection syringes and standard needles! Using the 3Dose syringe, this is over: we know that we do exactly and reproducibly always get 1 unit of toxin per click!

Aesthetic Dermatology: In which areas of the face do you find accurate BoNT dosage the most important?
Zenker:
First of all it is important that toxine injections are accurate in every area of the face. It might be even more important in delicate areas, such as the lateral aspect of the frontalis muscle or the crowfeet or perioral area. But accuracy does always matter!

Aesthetic Dermatology:
*Do you register the given dose per patient and has the 3Dose syringe helped you with getting reproducible results?*

Zenker:
Sure, we always register the dose per injection point as well as the total amount of toxin injected per treatment and per patient. Using this new system it’s easier to exactly document the dose per point. And it does re-assure the injector of having given "the right" dose per point. Additionally, I can concentrate far more on the injection itself than on the syringe. This helps a lot in getting reproducible results!

Aesthetic Dermatology:
*There are 3 approved BoNT brands in the market with different recommended dilutions. Do you or your staff find it is confusing and how has the 3Dose syringe helped you with this?*

Zenker:
Again, the syringe is compatible with all three FDA approved botulinum toxins available in Europe and the U.S. But you are right, in the past many doctors have been horrified of using different toxins in their clinic or even on one patient as this would possibly increase confusion. Now it's very easy: dilute your toxin however you wish. Adjust the 3Dose syringe to your dilution (it’s simply done by a simple turn of the plunger of the syringe) and you get precisely one unit per click!

Aesthetic Dermatology:
*The 3Dose syringe comes packed with two 33G needles. How have your patients experienced a 33G needle vs. a regular 30G needle?*

Zenker:
All patients I have treated with the new toxin injection syringe were amazed about how easy and more comfortable the injections were. And they really don’t miss this nasty "crch" noise the "old" needles did. They felt almost nothing and this is thanks to this mosquito needle and so they clearly appreciate this innovation.

Aesthetic Dermatology:
*The 3Dose syringe is more expensive than a regular hypodermic syringe. Have the savings in BoNT by using the 3Dose syringe made up for this higher expense?*

Zenker:
The syringe comes with two needles in a sterile package. This gives the physician a “ready-to-use system” out of the box. Basically, the treatment cost might appear to be slightly higher using the 3Dose syringe. But as we can count on reliably reproducible results now and as we see other advantages such as overall reduction of toxin wastage and ease of management of the injection as well as the overall ease of management and the significantly increased patient comfort, this will compensate the slightly higher up-front costs.

Aesthetic Dermatology:
*What would you tell your fellow doctors about the new 3Dose BoNT syringe?*

Zenker:
I would recommend every doctor to have a look at this system and gain insights into a system with wonderful new features. I do truly think that this aid in the handling of botulinum toxine injections will change important aspects of toxin injections. Again, this system improves and increases the accuracy and certainly patient’s comfort in this major aesthetic procedure.

Aesthetic Dermatology:
*Dear Dr. Zenker, thank you very much for taking the time to talk to us!*

INFO

The 3Dose syringe, selected as one of the finalists of the Aesthetic Award 2014 in the category “Product Innovation”, was developed by VLOW Medical and is sold exclusively in Europe by TSK Laboratory Europe B.V. (www.tsvlab.com). A dedicated website page for the 3Dose syringe can be found here: www.tsvlab.com/3dose.