

MDSANZ Statement on training in botulinum toxin administration for movement disorder indications

The MDSANZ considers training to be essential before commencing practice as an independent botulinum toxin injector for movement disorder indications such as dystonia.

Important skills for the practitioner include:

- Appropriate storage and handling of the toxin
- Awareness of different toxin types and dosing
- Skills in patient assessment, including:
 - recognizing the pattern of dystonia
 - identifying the principal muscles likely responsible for the pattern, and their location
- In the de novo patient, a systematic approach to initial dosing
- In the follow-up patient, titration of dose and modification of muscle selection, depending on response
- Awareness of potential adverse effects and patient counselling concerning these

It is also important for practitioners to manage a sufficient caseload to maintain their skills, and to recognise the value of referral to an experienced colleague, in the event that a patient's response to treatment is sub-optimal.

Appropriate training can be obtained from a range of different sources, including:

1. Attendance at workshops in which education is provided by experienced practitioners
2. Under the direct supervision of an experienced injector eg during advanced training, as part of a movement disorders fellowship or other preceptorship

4 August 2020