



Consensus recommendations on the use of onabotulinumtoxin A in aesthetic medicine

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(3) Appendix 1

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Introduction

Onabotulinumtoxin A – history

Onabotulinumtoxin A (OnaBTX A) has been successfully used for more than 30 years in human medicine to treat a variety of indications. Alan Scott first used botulinum toxin in patients for the treatment of strabismus in 1980 [1]. Further indications in the area of neurological spastic dystonias were added in the following years [2–4]. In 1989, the medication was officially approved by the “Food and Drug Administration” (FDA) under the name of Botox[®] for the indications of strabismus and blepharospasm.

Carruthers and Carruthers described use of botulinum toxin type A (BTX A) in the early 1990s for treatment of expression lines [5–7].

This had been preceded by the observation of the Canadian ophthalmologist, Jean Carruthers, who had established in a blepharospasm study that glabellar lines were significantly reduced in her patients. This prompted her husband, the dermatologist Alastair Carruthers, to use Botox[®] also for the treatment of expression lines, that is for lines caused by muscular contractions. This laid the foundation for use of BTX A in cosmetic medicine, with the result that we can now look back at continuous experience and advancement with BTX A in aesthetic medicine over a period of more than 20 years (now OnaBTX A, see below).

Millions of aesthetic treatments had already been carried out in the facial area by the time OnaBTX A was officially approved in the USA in 2001 under the name of Botox Cosmetic[®] for treatment of glabellar lines. OnaBTX A was authorised, subject to certain conditions (see expert info), under the name of Vistabel[®] in Germany in 2006 for treatment of glabellar lines.

In addition to the numerous “on-label” indications today in the field of curative OnaBTX A therapy (in Germany Botox[®] and Vistabel[®]), there is now hardly a medical speciality that is not served by one of the many innovative treatment approaches in the field of medical “off-label” use. In light of this, OnaBTX A is one of the most well researched medications and is used annually millions of times worldwide. Successful treatments with OnaBTX A across all medical specialities and patient groups, also in significantly higher doses than with aesthetic treatments, confirm that OnaBTX A is a safe medication in the hands of an experienced user [8–10].

However, the expertise of the physician carrying out the treatment is critical, particularly in light of the fact that more and more new treatment approaches promising success are being developed within shorter and shorter time intervals. Currently, many indications in curative and aesthetic medicine have been defined even though very few of them are in the actual area of the authorisation, as so often happens over time in daily practice. The data from the available short-term and