

The Effectiveness Of Botox-A Hamstrings Muscle Injections In Children With Cerebral Palsy

Primary Investigator:

Maria Lebedowska, Ph.D.

Funding Agency: Central Research Committee, SIU School of Medicine

Spasticity is a motor control disorder common in many neurological disorders such as cerebral palsy, in which voluntary movement is limited and causes painful spasms. Spasticity limits proper growth in children and leads to body deformation.

Different treatment options are available to improve the control of spasms and performance of children with cerebral palsy. Botulin toxin A (BTX-A) injections cause temporal chemodenervation, in which the nerve-muscle junction is temporarily paralysed.

This treatment is commonly used in patients with cerebral palsy to improve a joint's range of motion and to reduce the muscular tone but has some side effects.

The aim of this study is to determine the changes of spasticity and strength at the knee joint following BTX-A injections of hamstrings muscle in children with cerebral palsy. Collaborating with John Fisk, M.D.,

Dr. Lebedowska will study 20 children with cerebral palsy in a non-randomized trial before and after they receive treatment.

The relations between the resistance, the knee muscles and the knee's passive and active ranges of motion before and after treatment will be analyzed.

Dr. Lebedowska expects that an increase in the knee's range of the motion will accompany a decrease in the knees' flexion strength and resistance in knee extension.

As a result of this study, the effectiveness and efficiency of BTX-A injections may be improved, along

with a better understanding of the relationship between reflexive and voluntary muscle activity in patients with cerebral palsy.

Comparative Effectiveness of Antipsychotic Medications in Patients with Schizophrenia (CATIE)

Primary Investigator: *Raymond Bland, M.D.*

Funding Agency: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (National Institute of Mental Health)

More than two million Americans suffer from schizophrenia, a chronic, severe and disabling brain disease, in any given year. People with schizophrenia often suffer terrifying symptoms such as hearing internal voices not heard by others, or believing that others are reading their minds, controlling their thoughts or plotting to harm them. These symptoms may leave sufferers fearful and withdrawn.

Newer antipsychotic medications have raised considerable hope for more effective treatments for schizophrenia.

This study will compare the newer antipsychotics with conventional antipsychotics and the new antipsychotics with each other in patients with chronic and recurrent forms of schizophrenia.

A total of approximately 1600 subjects at 50 institutions will take part in this randomized, double-blind (in Phase I & II) study. Approximately 30 subjects from the SIU Department of Psychiatry in Springfield are expected to participate. The CATIE Group will assess the project's outcome in terms of the efficacy, safety, cognition, quality of life and service usage of the medications for schizophrenic patients.

Are patients willing to undergo endoscopy without sedation?

Primary Investigators: *Anand Madan, M.D., Kalyana Lavu, M.D., Sailaja Cheruku, M.D., Amil Minocha, M.D.*

Funding Agency: SIU Department of Internal Medicine

Several recent publications from major medical centers have reported that up to 70 percent of patients undergoing endoscopy are willing to undergo such procedures without sedation. Endoscopy is the visual inspection of any cavity of the body by means of an endoscope, a highly flexible viewing instrument.

The experience in a community setting where most patients actually ask for general anesthesia before endoscopy may be different from that of large medical centers. This project studied the attitudes of endoscopy patients in a small community.

The investigators evaluated the willingness of patients in a community setting to undergo endoscopy without sedation and also assessed patient characteristics that may predict such willingness.

A total of 265 subjects participated in the survey, including health care professionals and patients about to undergo endoscopy. Only 17.1 percent of the patients and 19.7 percent of health-care professionals were willing to undergo colonoscopy and/or esophagogastroduodenoscopy without conscious sedation. Physicians were least likely to agree to unsedated endoscopy (2.2 percent).

For more information about these projects, contact the Office of Research and Faculty Affairs at 217-545-7936.