

Continuing Medical Education

CME MCQ – 15

Focus on Botulinum toxin

Botulinum toxin (BTX) derive from the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum* and is well known as the cause of muscle paralysis secondary to food poisoning. BTX has demonstrated efficacy in several therapeutic areas.

1. Which of the following statements about BTX are correct?
 - A. BTX block neuromuscular motor transmission by inhibiting the release of acetylcholine
 - B. BTX include different serotypes
 - C. Cellular recovery after BTX induced chemodenervation is only partly understood
2. Which of the following side-effects and complications have been associated with BTX injections?
 - A. Undesired muscle weakening
 - B. Formation of neutralizing antibodies leading to nonresponse
 - C. Generalized weakness and dysphagia

Recommended answers (based on Alastair Carruthers and Jean Carruthers, *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2005; 53: 284-90):
1. All statements are correct. Two commercially available subtypes, BTX-A and BTX-B, are both dichain polypeptides. Since each preparation differs in pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics they are not interchangeable.
2. All statements are correct.

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