Critical Review: The Effectiveness of Botulinum Toxin in the Treatment of Children with Drooling Problems

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This critical review examined the effectiveness of Botulinum toxin type A (BT) injections in the treatment of drooling problems in children with various neurological conditions. Study designs reviewed included: case study, case series, cohort study and controlled clinical trial. Overall, research supports the use of BT in the treatment of children who have cerebral palsy (CP) and who drool, however there was limited evidence to support its use with children who have a variety of other neurological disorders. Evidence was inconclusive regarding identification of the optimal site of injection and the optimal dosage of injection.

Introduction

Drooling or sialorrhea is a major problem