

0045

## **Assessment Protocol for Occupational Therapy after Botulinum Toxin A Injections to the Upper Limb.**

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### **Background**

Upper Limb hypertonicity, contracture and other abnormalities of tone and positioning are common clinical features of neurological conditions such as stroke or traumatic brain injury. Botulinum toxin injections aim to produce change in body structures and function so occupational therapy activity and participation goals can be met.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this study was to investigate feasibility of an assessment protocol for determining the improvements achieved by occupational therapy post-botulinum toxin injections with adults.

### **Methods**

Ten adults will be recruited. The assessment protocol includes range of movement, Modified Ashworth Scale, Tardieu Scale, Upper Limb Motor Assessment Scale (UL-MAS), and the Arm Activity Measure.

### **Results**

Findings to be presented will include inter-rater reliability scores, in addition to effect sizes pre- and post-botulinum toxin injections to the upper limb. Feasibility will be based on acceptability of the protocol, inter-rater reliability and responsiveness of outcome measures.

### **Conclusion**

This paper will demonstrate that no single tool can measure the many types of changes possible with occupational therapy plus botulinum toxin injections to the upper limb. Therefore the choice of assessment tools must be based on the functional changes expected from the treatment. Findings will provide a clear direction for therapists, based on the sensitivity, reliability and ease of administration of the assessment tools.

### **Contribution to the practice/evidence base of occupational therapy**

New knowledge on best practice for assessing upper limb in neurological conditions will be presented.