WHAT IS BOTOX?
Botox is the common name for a medication made from the toxin of the bacterium Clostridium botulinum. It is a neurotoxin used for a range of medical and cosmetic purposes. Botox injections work by relaxing certain muscles or nerves. The effects can last for up to 6 months.

USE IN UROLOGY
The bladder is a strong muscle that stores urine until it is time to empty. When the bladder is full, it begins to squeeze/contract to empty. If it is not a good time or place to pee, the brain tells the bladder to stop squeezing. At the appropriate time, the brain tells the bladder to squeeze while relaxing the sphincter so the bladder empties.

Some children have a neuropathic bladder which means the signals between the bladder and the brain are interrupted. This can cause issues with the bladder relaxing or contracting and/or the sphincter relaxing.

Some children have normal signals but have increased contractions which mean the bladder squeezes a lot even when it's not full. This over activity can cause urgency and wetting accidents during the day/night. Botox may be recommended if other treatments such as medication have not worked or have side effects.

Botox needs to be injected directly into the bladder muscle. For the bladder, this means a cystoscopy (a telescope examination of the bladder) to guide the injection. The cystoscope is a small lighted telescope that is inserted through the urethra (where pee comes out) into the bladder. A thin needle is passed through the cystoscope and the Botox is injected into the bladder muscle.

Your child will be admitted to the day unit on the day of the procedure and will have a general anaesthetic. Your child will generally be discharged home once recovered from anaesthetic and they have passed urine.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS TO OBSERVE CLOSELY FOR:
Urinary Tract Infection - Signs and symptoms may include temperature / tummy or back pain/cloudy or foul smelling urine / generally unwell / vomiting. Your child may require an antibiotic. Please contact the hospital or your GP.

Pain on passing urine (Dysuria) - This is common in the 24hours after a cystoscopy. Encourage plenty of fluids.

Blood in the urine - This is common after Botox injections. The urine may be pink/red and should clear within a few days post operatively. If there is significant amount of blood or clots in the urine contact the hospital.

Difficulty passing urine / emptying the bladder - This can occur occasionally after botox due to over relaxation of the muscle. Signs include dribbling stream/wetting day or night / UTI.
OUTCOMES

- It usually takes a few days for the Botox to have effect. The duration of effect can be different for everybody but is generally effective for between 4-6 months. Botox can be repeated once the effect begins to wear off.

- We recommend that you maintain a regular routine of drinking and going to the toilet during the day to get maximum effect and to promote a healthy bladder.

For more information on Cystoscopy and Botox, please contact Urology CNS in Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin.

CONTACT DETAILS
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Remember: Ask your nurse if you are unsure about anything about your child’s care.

Additional instructions

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