

LONG TERM EFFICACY OF BOTULINUM TOXIN IN BLEPHAROSPASM: A 27 YEAR RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

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Objective

Aim of this study is to evaluate the long term effect, safety and tolerance of botulinum toxin treatment in patients with blepharospasm (BS).

Methods and materials

We conducted a retrospective analysis on the patient treated for BS with Botulinum Toxin (BoNT) injections at the movement disorder clinic of the University of Messina from 1989 to 2017. We collected data about demography, dosage, sites of injection, efficacy, effect duration at first visit, at the fourth visit (short-follow up) and at the last available visit (long-follow up). Data on occurrence and type of side effects were collected too.

Results

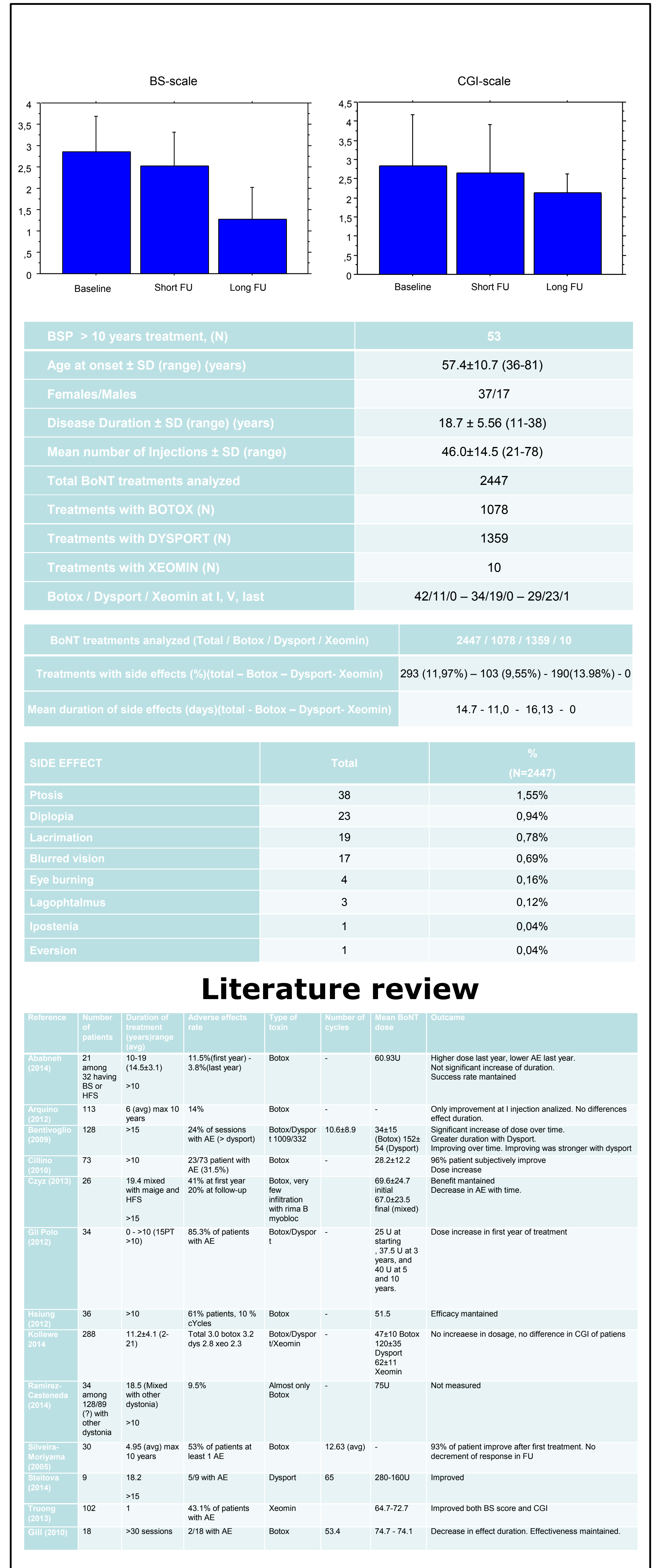
Out of 139 patients with BS we included in this study 52 patients with a treatment duration longer than 10 years. Mean disease duration was 18.7±5.6 years and mean treatment duration was 16.3±4.6 years. Each patient underwent to a mean of 6.4±14.3 treatments. A total of 2421 sessions were analyzed. We used Botox in 1064 (45.3%), Dysport in 1349 (57.5%), and Xeomin in 10 ($\pm 0.1\%$). BS severity improved at long follow up in comparison with first visit and short follow up. Effect duration and BoNT dose increased at long follow up. Patients satisfaction regard the treatment remain good throughout the follow up and improved at long follow up in comparison with first visit. We registered side effect in 12.1% of treatment and the most common side effect was ptosis.

Discussion

BoNT is a consolidated therapy for focal dystonia but few studies investigated the long-term efficacy of BoNT in BS so far. Our data confirm the efficacy of such therapy in patient treated for more than 10 years. Noteworthy we observed improvement of BS overtime, this can be explained with a sustained effect of BoNT over hyperactive muscles. Side effect rate remain stable for the whole duration of the study and them were generally mild.

Conclusions

BoNT is a safe and effective therapy for BS even in patient treated for more than 10 years. Our study is so far one of the longest of literature to assess the long term effects of BoNT in BS.



Bibliografia

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