

PAIN IN DYSTONIA

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Dystonia is frequently accompanied by pain. It is widely accepted that pain in focal dystonia patients is a consequence of sustained muscle contraction. Botulinum toxin type-*A* (BTX-*A*) is successfully used in the management of muscle over-activity and today BTX-*A* is considered as first line treatment in focal dystonia patients. Thus, it is considered that BTX-*A* therapy attenuates pain by symptomatic muscle relaxation

But pain relief might considerably outweigh the degree of motor benefit **and** pain relief may occur before any change in muscular activity can be observed. In addition, pain relief is commonly prolonged for longer periods than the measurable effect on the injected muscle. Our results show that the major benefit of BTX type-*A* treatment on pain reduction compared to dystonia improvement was the duration of action and the lower beneficial dose. This suggests that a direct antinociceptive effect distinct from muscle spasm reduction may be involved.