

# Product Fact Sheet

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## WHAT IS BOTOX® AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

BOTOX® (onabotulinumtoxinA) is a prescription-only medical product that contains tiny amounts of a highly purified botulinum toxin protein refined from the bacterium, *Clostridium botulinum*, which decreases muscle activity by blocking the overactive nerve impulses that trigger excessive muscle contractions or glandular activities.

## IS BOTOX® APPROVED AS A TREATMENT FOR CHRONIC MIGRAINE?

Yes, BOTOX® has been approved as a prophylactic (preventive) treatment for headaches in adult patients with Chronic Migraine who suffer from headaches 15 days or more per month, lasting four hours a day or longer.<sup>1</sup>

## WHAT IS THE RECOMMENDED DOSE OF BOTOX® FOR CHRONIC MIGRAINE?

In Chronic Migraine, patients receive BOTOX® injections in 31-39 sites across seven specific head and neck muscle areas for a total of 155-195U to prevent the onset of headaches.<sup>1</sup> When injected at labeled doses and in the recommended locations, BOTOX® is expected to produce results lasting up to three months (12 weeks) depending on the individual patient.<sup>1</sup>

## HOW LONG DO BOTOX® INJECTIONS TAKE?

Treatment for Chronic Migraine with BOTOX® injections is performed in an office setting by a qualified medical specialist, such as neurologist, headache or pain specialist. An average injection using the recommended study protocol could take approximately 10-15 minutes by an experienced injector.

## HOW LONG DOES BOTOX® TREATMENT LAST IN CHRONIC MIGRAINE PATIENTS?

BOTOX® should be injected by a qualified medical specialist, such as a neurologist, headache or pain specialist. When injected at labeled doses and in the recommended locations, BOTOX® is expected to produce results lasting up to three months (12 weeks) depending on the individual patient.<sup>1</sup>

## HOW MUCH DO BOTOX® INJECTIONS COST?

When treating Chronic Migraine, qualified medical specialists, such as a neurologist, headache or pain specialist administer BOTOX® injections to 31-39 sites across seven specific head and neck muscle areas for a total of 155-195U per treatment session.<sup>1</sup>

The price of a 50U vial of BOTOX® in Canada is \$178.50. A 100U vial of BOTOX® in Canada is \$357 and a 200U vial of BOTOX® is \$714.

## WILL BOTOX® TREATMENT FOR CHRONIC MIGRAINE BE REIMBURSED?

BOTOX® is currently reimbursed by some private payers in Canada and Allergan is hopeful that other private payer groups will make policy decisions that offer broader coverage for this indication in the next 12 months.

## ARE THERE OTHER TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR CHRONIC MIGRAINE?

BOTOX® is the only clinically-studied and approved preventative treatment specifically for adult patients with Chronic Migraine in Canada. However, when treating Chronic Migraine, qualified medical specialists, including neurologists, headache and pain specialists, will consider the use of other preventative therapies to fend off the onset of headaches, acute medications to manage the symptoms upon occurrence, and often non-medical therapy to mitigate the effects of the condition.<sup>2</sup>

Standard acute treatments for Chronic Migraine include:<sup>2</sup>

- Over-the-counter analgesics
- Prescription non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
- Triptans
- Ergotamines

Preventive therapies cover several different classes of medications, including:<sup>2</sup>

- Antidepressants
- Anticonvulsants
- Beta-blockers
- Calcium channel blockers

Other lifestyle changes that may reduce the occurrence of Chronic Migraine include:<sup>2</sup>

- Changes in diet, sleep, exercise and psychological well-being
- Reduction in caffeine, alcohol, tobacco and select over-the-counter (OTC), as well as prescription medications that are known to increase the risk of headaches

For more information about Chronic Migraine, its symptoms and triggers patients should visit:

[www.MyChronicMigraine.ca](http://www.MyChronicMigraine.ca).

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### REFERENCES:

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<sup>1</sup> BOTOX® Canadian Product Monograph. Updated October 2011.

<sup>2</sup> National Headache Foundation. Headache Topic Sheets: Chronic Migraine. Available at [http://www.headaches.org/education/Headache\\_Topic\\_Sheets/Chronic\\_Migraine](http://www.headaches.org/education/Headache_Topic_Sheets/Chronic_Migraine). Last accessed: August 30, 2011