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Dr. Samarth's Next Presentation:

"Understanding and
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July 14, 2017 El Camino Hospital Mountain View 10:30am - 12:00pm Did You Know?

Botulinum Toxin Injection Treatments Are Effective for Chronic Migraine Headaches

When chronic migraine headaches are not adequately controlled with oral medications or patients have side effects with oral medications used for migraine headaches, I have found that preventative treatment with Botox injections form an important part of a Chronic Migraine treatment plan.

Onabotulinum toxin A (Botox) injections are FDA approved since 2011 for the prevention of headaches in adult patients with chronic migraines (>=15 days per month with headache of which >8 days are associated with migraine and headache lasting 4 hours a day or longer).

Two set of injections are given 12 weeks apart. The recommended dose for treating chronic migraine is 155 units administered intramuscularly using a sterile very thin half inch needle as 31 injections divided across 7 specific head and neck muscles. The second set of injections are given after 12 weeks. Patients usually start feeling better after 4 weeks but reduction in headache days happens gradually over the course of 24 weeks. Botox works by producing partial chemical denervation of the muscle resulting in localized reduction in muscle activity. Pain relief could last up to 3 months based on individual patient. The total procedure time in the office setting is approximately 15-20 minutes.

Botox cannot be used if you are allergic to Onabotulinum toxin or any of its components, if you have had an allergic reaction to any other botulinum toxin product such as Myobloc (Rimabotulimun toxin B), Dysport (Abobotulinum toxin A) or Xeomin

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(Incobotulinum toxin A) or have an active infection at the planned injection site. Most common side effects are neck pain, headache, slight or partial facial paralysis, eyelid drooping, muscle weakness among others.

To find out more about this novel treatment approach, please call 408-445-8400 to schedule a consultation with Dr. Amruta Samarth at our Los Gatos office.