



NZDA Position Statement: The Use of Botulinum-A Toxin in Dentistry

March 2010



There are both therapeutic and cosmetic indications for the use of botulinum-A toxin in dentistry and the scope of general dental practice allows for the administration of botulinum-A toxin restricted to the naso-labial folds and / or peri-oral area.

The New Zealand Dental Association advises that any dentist who wishes to administer botulinum-A toxin in their practice must comply with the requirements set out by the Dental Council of New Zealand in its policy on advanced new areas of practice which requires practitioners to have undertaken appropriate training before introducing new techniques or procedures into their practices.

NOTE: Botox is a commercial name for botulinum-A toxin. The paragraphs detailed below are direct quotes from the New Zealand Dental Council's policy. They are not an endorsement by the NZDA of any particular product.

- The statement regarding appropriate training for this procedure is in the NZ Conditions of Practice Handbook and states:

"...dentists wishing to administer Botox (in the naso-labial folds and / or peri-oral area) must abide by the requirements of the Council's policy on advanced new areas of practice..."

Practitioners offering services in an advanced area of dentistry or procedures using new techniques or equipment:

- Must be able to demonstrate that they have the requisite knowledge and training to undertake such services/procedures including knowledge of the relevant scientific literature – this means having documented evidence of training including formal qualifications, courses, CPD and supervised or self directed training and evidence of logged experience in the advanced or new area of practice.
- Must ensure the patient's informed consent to the service or procedure – the patient should be aware of the methods you have been trained in and the other options available to them such as treatment by a specialist or other practitioner; must understand the nature of the service/procedure and the possible risks and side effects; and should have a realistic expectation of the results that can be achieved. There must be a clear and comprehensive record of the consent process. The patient's written consent must be obtained in the case of research or an experimental procedure.
- Must ensure that any new technique or procedure falls within the practice of their particular profession as defined by the Council in the "Detailed Scopes".
- Should be aware of the indemnity position in relation to new techniques and procedures.