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Could Botox make walking easier in children with cerebral palsy?

JULY 24, 2024 - A recent randomized clinical trial published in *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology* assessed whether injections of botulinumtoxin-A in calf muscles benefit children with cerebral palsy.

“We hypothesized that injections with botulinumtoxin-A in the calf muscles would make walking easier, caused by improved ankle joint functioning following spasticity reduction,” the authors wrote.

In the trial, one botulinumtoxin-A treatment was not superior to placebo in making walking easier (measured as a reduction in energy cost or improved walking capacity); however, there was some evidence of a delayed improvement in energy cost. Moreover, there was some evidence of a decrease in calf pain intensity. No serious adverse events related to botulinumtoxin-A treatment were recorded.

URL upon publication: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dmcn.16038>

*Full citation: “Does botulinum neurotoxin A make walking easier in children with cerebral palsy? A randomized clinical trial.” Siri Merete Brændvik, Anne Elisabeth Ross Raftemo, Karin Roeleveld, Guro Lillemoen Andersen, Kjersti Ramstad, Turid Follestad, Ånen Aarli, Marcin Bonikowski, Torstein Vik, *Walking Easier. Dev Med Child Neurol*; Published Online: 12 June 2024 (DOI: 10.1111/dmcn.16038).*

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