

  
SCIENZA, PRATICA E QUALITÀ



**La spasticità dell'arto superiore:  
la diagnosi e il trattamento  
con BoNTA**

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MD PhD

Medicina Fisica e Riabilitativa  
Dipartimento di Scienze della Salute  
Università del Piemonte Orientale  
Novara

**3ª Riunione Gruppo di Studio SIN  
Rete Italiana Tossina Botulinica  
(RITB)**  
Roma, 29 Marzo 2019 - ore 10.00

**UPO**  
UNIVERSITÀ DEL PIEMONTE ORIENTALE



## Disclosures

- ☐ Honoraria/Expenses from Allergan, Ipsen
- ☐ Consulting/Advisory Board from Allergan, Ipsen
- ☐ Funded Research from Allergan, Ipsen, Merz

# UL spasticity

	I	II	III	IV	V
Shoulder	Internal rotation/ adduction	Internal rotation/ adduction	Internal rotation/ adduction	Internal rotation/ adduction	Internal rotation/ retroversion
Elbow	Flexion	Flexion	Flexion	Flexion	Extension
Forearm	Supination	Supination	Neutral	Pronation	Pronation
Wrist	Flexion	Extension	Neutral	Flexion	Flexion

Upper limb spasticity patterns. Note: All five upper limb patterns could be combined with any spastic hand and finger position (e.g. claw, spastic flexed, intrinsic lumbrical).

Hefter et al, 2012

## OnabotulinumtoxinA Injection for Upper Limb PSS

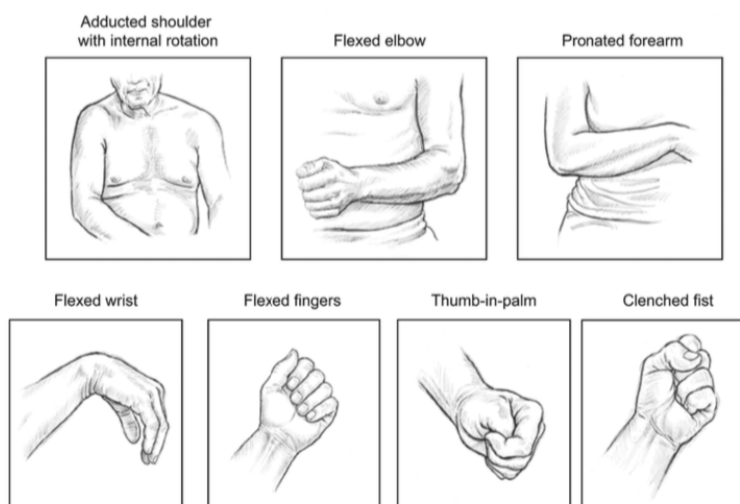


Figure 3. Post-Delphi revisions: final redrawn images for Common Postures of Spasticity Picture Guide: Upper Limb.

D.M. Simpson et al. / PM R 9 (2017) 136-148

Journal of Neurology  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00415-018-8759-1>

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATION



## Defining spasticity: a new approach considering current movement disorders terminology and botulinum toxin therapy

Dirk Dressler<sup>1</sup> · Roongroj Bhidayasiri<sup>2</sup> · Saeed Bohlega<sup>3</sup> · Pedro Chana<sup>4</sup> · Hsin Fen Chien<sup>5</sup> · Tae Mo Chung<sup>6</sup> · Carlo Colosimo<sup>7</sup> · Markus Ebke<sup>8</sup> · Klemens Fedoroff<sup>9</sup> · Bernd Frank<sup>10</sup> · Ryuji Kaji<sup>11</sup> · Petr Kanovsky<sup>12</sup> · Serdar Koçer<sup>13</sup> · Federico Micheli<sup>14</sup> · Olga Orlova<sup>15</sup> · Sebastian Paus<sup>16</sup> · Zvezdan Pirtosek<sup>17</sup> · Maja Relja<sup>18</sup> · Raymond L. Rosales<sup>19</sup> · José Alberto Sagástegui-Rodríguez<sup>20</sup> · Paul W. Schoenle<sup>21</sup> · Gholam Ali Shahidi<sup>22</sup> · Sofia Timerbaeva<sup>23</sup> · Uwe Walter<sup>24</sup> · Fereshte Adib Saberi<sup>25</sup>

## Spasticity: definition

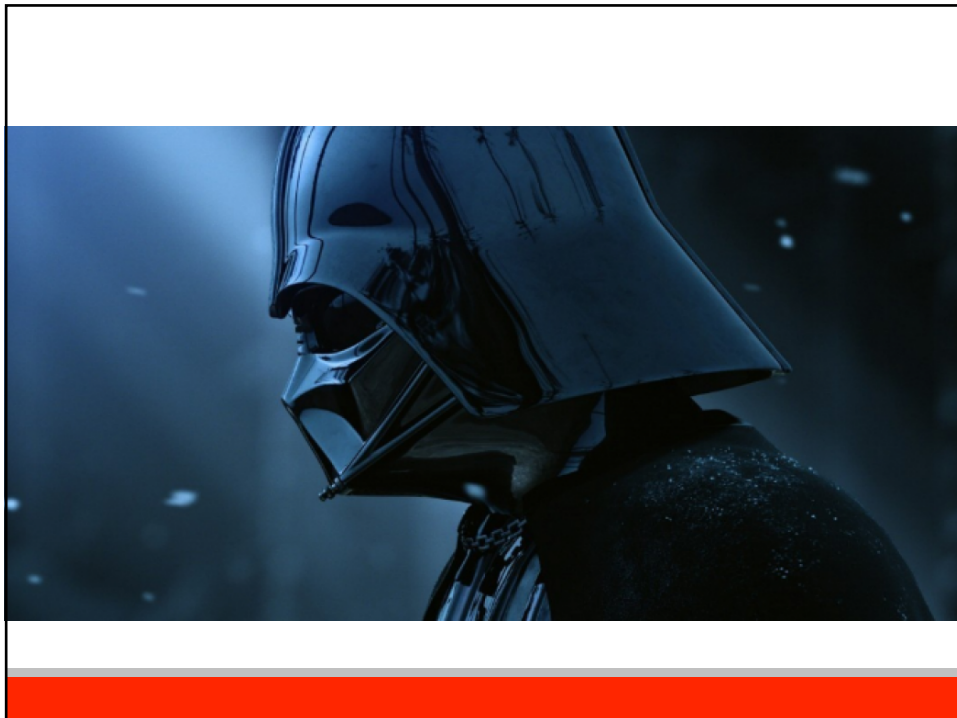
The involuntary muscle hyperactivity can consist of various forms of muscle hyperactivity:

- ☐ **spasticity sensu strictu**: involuntary muscle hyperactivity triggered by rapid passive joint movements
- ☐ **rigidity**: involuntary muscle hyperactivity triggered by slow passive joint movements
- ☐ **dystonia**: spontaneous involuntary muscle hyperactivity
- ☐ **spasms**: complex involuntary movements usually triggered by sensory or acoustic stimuli.
- ☐ **complications**: contractures, pain

Dressler et al, J Neurol 2018

Indication	Level A <sup>a</sup> effective	Level B <sup>b</sup> probably effective
Blepharospasm		OnabotulinumtoxinA incobotulinumtoxinA
Cervical dystonia	AbobotulinumtoxinA, rimabotulinumtoxinB	OnabotulinumtoxinA incobotulinumtoxinA
Upper limb spasticity <sup>a</sup>	AbobotulinumtoxinA, onabotulinumtoxinA, <sup>h</sup> incobotulinumtoxinA	RimabotulinumtoxinB
Lower limb spasticity	OnabotulinumtoxinA, abobotulinumtoxinA	
Chronic migraine	OnabotulinumtoxinA <sup>i</sup>	
Episodic migraine		
Tension-type headache		

Simpson DM et al, Neurology 2016





## Botulinum Toxin for the Upper Limb After Stroke (BoTULS) Trial

### Effect on Impairment, Activity Limitation, and Pain

Lisa C. Shaw, MRCP; Christopher I.M. Price, MD; Frederike M.J. van Wijck, PhD; Phil Shackley, PhD;  
Nick Steen, PhD; Michael P. Barnes, MD; Gary A. Ford, FRCP; Laura A. Graham, MD;  
Helen Rodgers, FRCP; on behalf of the BoTULS Investigators

- ❑ No significant difference in achievement of improved arm function (Action Research Arm Test) at 1 month (intervention group: 42 of 167 [25.1%], control group 30 of 154 [19.5%];  $P=0.232$ ).
- ❑ Significant differences in favor of the intervention group were seen in muscle tone at 1 month; upper limb strength at 3 months; basic arm functional tasks (hand hygiene, facilitation of dressing) at 1, 3, and 12 months; and pain at 12 months.

(*Stroke*. 2011;42:1371-1379.)

## Safety and efficacy of abobotulinumtoxinA for hemiparesis in adults with upper limb spasticity after stroke or traumatic brain injury: a double-blind randomised controlled trial

Jean-Michel Gracies, Allison Brashear, Robert Jech, Peter McAllister, Marta Banach, Peter Valkovic, Heather Walker, Christina Marciniak, Thierry Deltombe, Alexander Skoromets, Svetlana Khatkova, Steven Edgley, Fatma Gul, France Catus, Beatrice Bois De Fer, Claire Vilain, Philippe Picaut, for the International AbobotulinumtoxinA Adult Upper Limb Spasticity Study Group\*

### Added value of this study

The current study shows improvements in tone 4 weeks after a single injection session of 500 U or 1000 U of abobotulinumtoxinA; these improvements were noted as early as week 1 and persisted for at least 12 weeks. Tertiary endpoints showed an improvement in active range of motion in all movements assessed in the upper limb (elbow, wrist, or finger extension) in the abobotulinumtoxinA 1000 U group, and a reduction of spasticity and spastic dystonia (Tardieu Scale). The data obtained with the two doses we studied and their effects might provide relevant information for future recommendations on dosing of abobotulinumtoxinA in adults with spastic paresis.

*Lancet Neurol* 2015;  
14: 992-1001

## Botulinum toxin A for upper limb spasticity



Overall, the study by Gracies and colleagues shows that an injection of abotulinumtoxinA is safe to apply and results in significantly reduced muscle tone for up to 3 months after stroke or traumatic brain injury.

However, whether Botulinum toxin A injections are useful for improving upper limb capacity remains unsolved.

*\*Gert Kwakkel, Carel G M Meskers*

Published Online  
August 27, 2015  
[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/  
S1474-4422\(15\)00222-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(15)00222-7)  
See **Articles** page 992

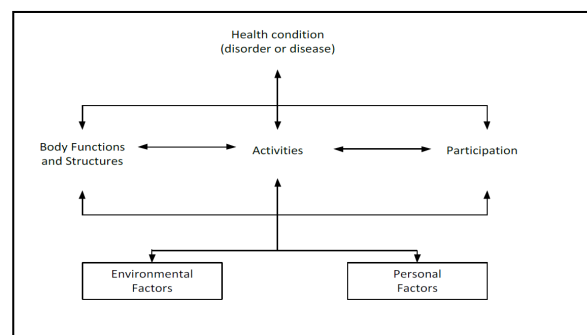
[www.thelancet.com/neurology](http://www.thelancet.com/neurology) **Vol 14** **October 2015**



## Il problema della misura



Box 1: The ICF Model: Interaction between ICF components



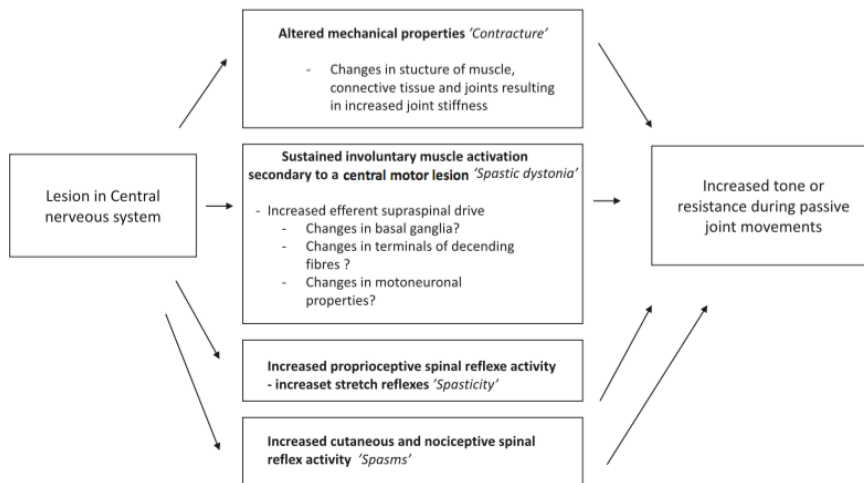
WHO 2001, 18

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Systematic Review of Upper-limb Function Measurement Methods in Botulinum Toxin Intervention for Focal Spasticity

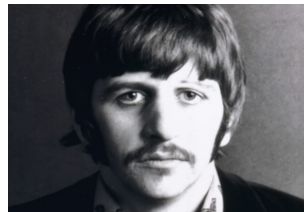
Stephen Ashford<sup>1,2†</sup> & Lynne Turner-Stokes<sup>1,2‡</sup>

Physiother. Res. Int. **18** (2013) 178–189



J. Lorentzen et al. / *Clinical Neurophysiology* 129 (2018) 89–94

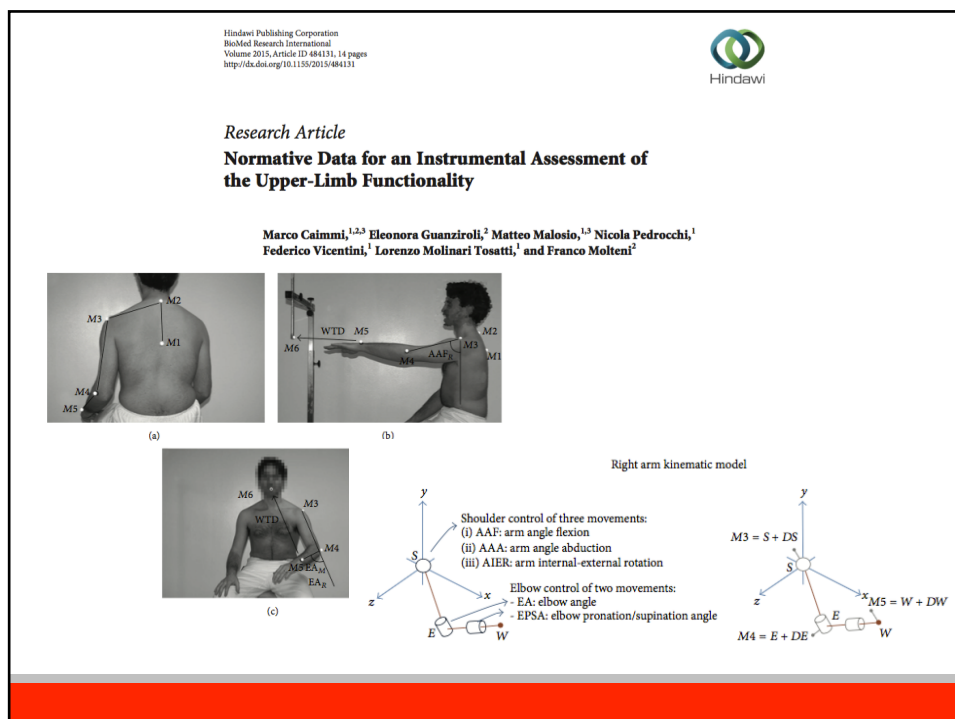
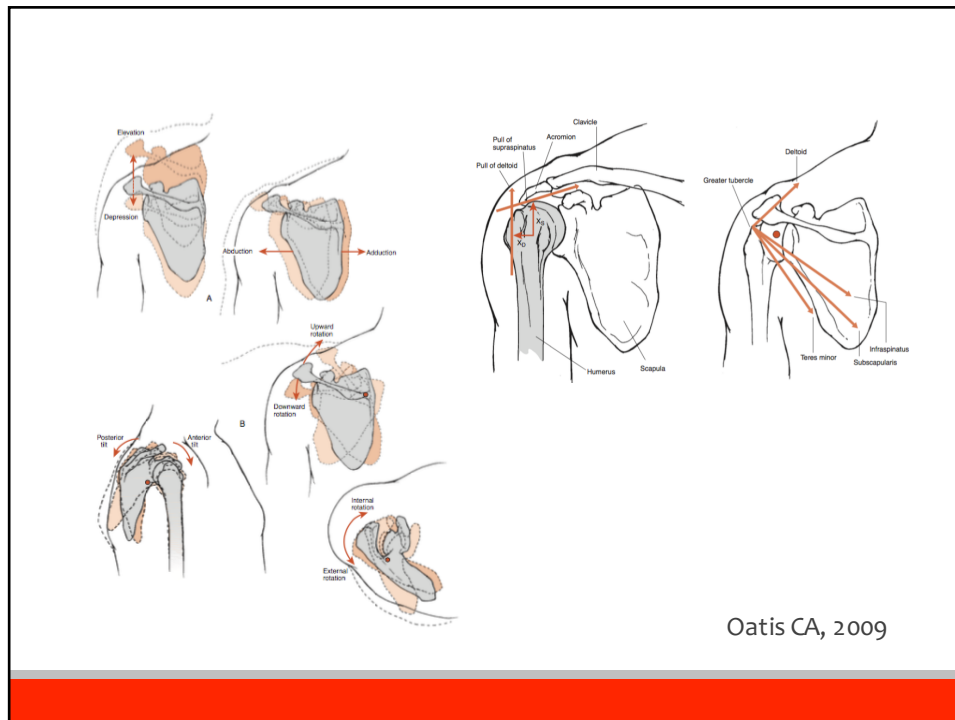
## Cos'è la “funzione attiva”?



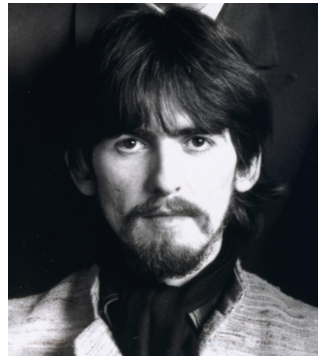
Michelangelo Buonarroti, 1508-1512



Jac Jacobsen, 1937



## Il “problema” spasticità



**Acta  
Neurologica  
Scandinavica**  
Acta Neurol Scand 2013; 128: 305–310 DOI: 10.1111/ane.12128  
© 2013 John Wiley & Sons A/S. Published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd.  
ACTA NEUROLOGICA  
SCANDINAVICA

### Review Article

## Enhancing patient–provider communication for long-term post-stroke spasticity management

Sunnerhagen KS, Francisco GE. Enhancing patient–provider communication for long-term post-stroke spasticity management. *Acta Neurol Scand* 2013; 128: 305–310.  
© 2013 John Wiley & Sons A/S. Published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

**K. S. Sunnerhagen<sup>1</sup>,  
G. E. Francisco<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>The Institute of Neuroscience and Physiology –  
Section for Clinical Neuroscience and Rehabilitation,

letter to the editor

## Post-stroke spasticity as a condition: a new perspective on patient evaluation

Alessio Baricich, MD<sup>a</sup>, Alessandro Picelli, MD, PhD<sup>a</sup>, Franco Molteni, MD<sup>a</sup>,  
Eleonora Guanziroli, MS Biomed Eng, PhD<sup>a</sup>, Andrea Santamato, MD<sup>d</sup>  
on behalf of the Philosophical Botulinum Toxin Club

Functional Neurology 2016; 31(3): 179-180

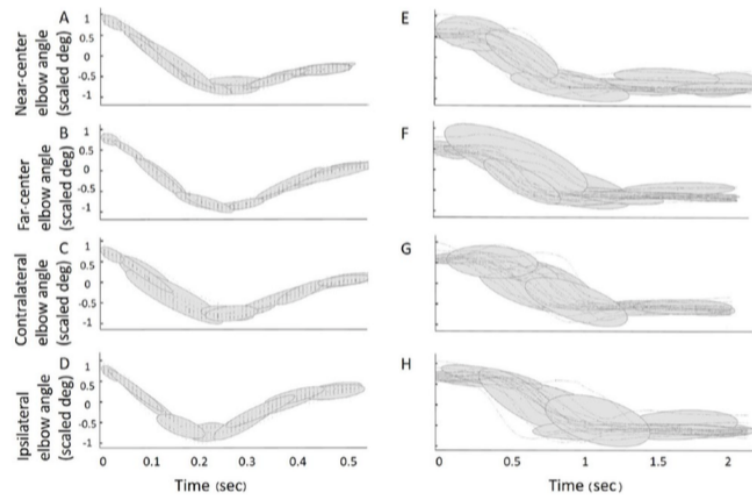
## Relationship Between Spasticity and Upper-Limb Movement Disorders in Individuals With Subacute Stroke Using Stochastic Spatiotemporal Modeling

Neurorehabilitation and  
Neural Repair  
2019, Vol. 33(2) 141–152  
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DOI: 10.1177/1545968319826050  
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SAGE

Isgav Davidowitz, MSc<sup>1</sup>, Yisrael Parmet, MSc, PhD<sup>1</sup>,  
Silvi Frenkel-Toledo, MSc, PhD<sup>2,3</sup>, Melanie C. Baniña, CAT(C), MSc, PhD<sup>4,5</sup>,  
Nachum Soroker, MD, PhD<sup>3,6</sup>, John M. Solomon, MPT, PhD<sup>7</sup>,  
Dario G. Liebermann, MSc, PhD<sup>6</sup>, Mindy F. Levin, PT, MSc, PhD<sup>2,3</sup>,  
and Sigal Berman, MSc, PhD<sup>1</sup>







Davidowitz I et al, NNR 2019

J Rehabil Med 2019; 51: Epub ahead of print

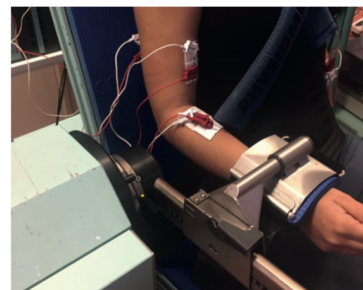
### SHORT COMMUNICATION



## SPASTIC CO-CONTRACTION, RATHER THAN SPASTICITY, IS ASSOCIATED WITH IMPAIRED ACTIVE FUNCTION IN ADULTS WITH ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY: A PILOT STUDY

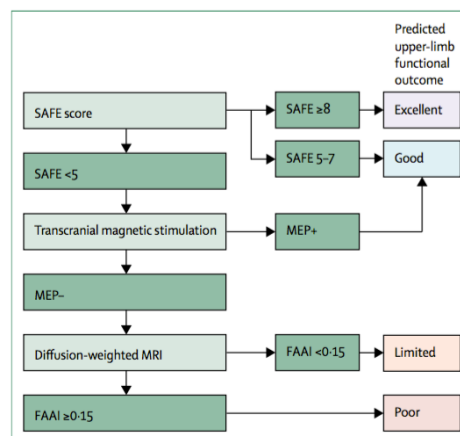
Alexandre CHALARD, PT, MS<sup>1,2</sup>, David AMARANTINI, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Joseph TISSEYRE, MS<sup>1</sup>, Philippe MARQUE, MD, PhD<sup>1,3</sup>, Jessica TALLET, PhD<sup>1</sup> and David GASQ, MD, PhD<sup>1,4</sup>

- ☐ Greater co-contraction occurred in patients with brain injury compared with controls.
- ☐ In contrast to spasticity, strong associations were found between the co-contraction index, the limitation of active elbow extension, the Fugl-Meyer Assessment, and the Action Research Arm Test.

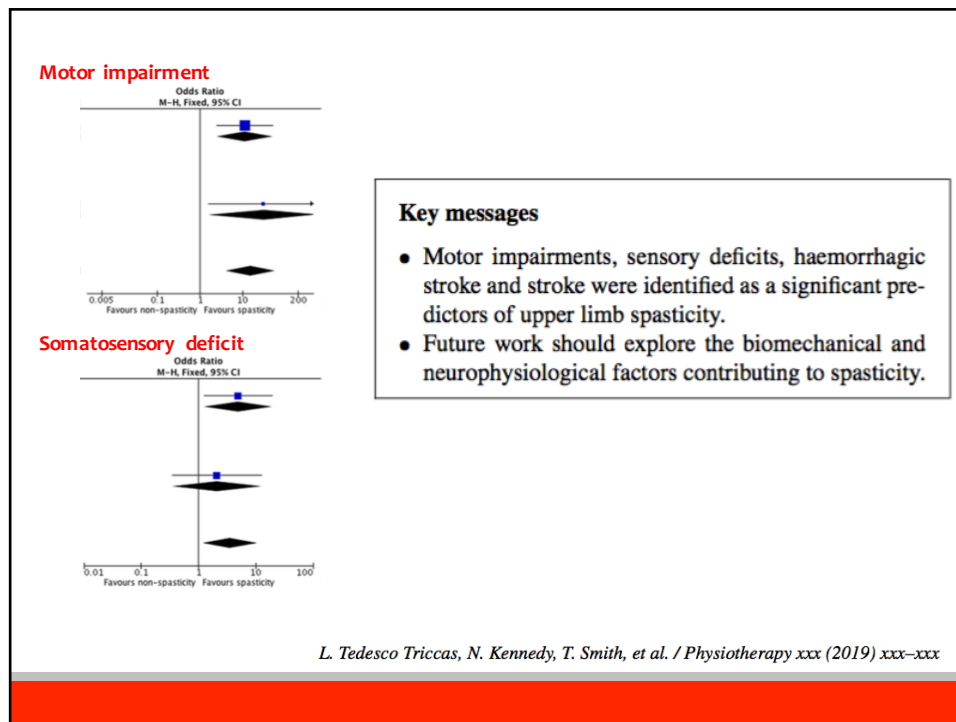


**Fig. 1.** Illustration of the arm and forearm positions used to perform torque and electromyographic recordings during isometric elbow extension on the calibrated dynamometer.

## La prognosi funzionale



Stinear et al, 2017



**Letter by Munin et al Regarding Article, "Botulinum Toxin for the Upper Limb After Stroke (BoTULS) Trial: Effect on Impairment, Activity Limitation, and Pain"**  
 Michael C. Munin, Douglas J. Weber and Elizabeth R. Skidmore

*Stroke*. 2011;42:e412; originally published online June 2, 2011;

- ☐ With severe baseline weakness in a majority of subjects, it is not surprising that botulinum toxin injections that block neuromuscular transmission and cause selective muscle weakening did not improve active functional movement as measured by the ARAT.
- ☐ Significantly more abobotulinumtoxinA patients had improvement in subject-reported daily tasks, like opening the palm for cleaning and cutting nails and putting an arm through a coat sleeve.
- ☐ These findings indicate that different measures give us different information about the effectiveness of interventions on upper limb function and pose the question, which measures are best for measuring changes in upper limb spasticity after stroke?



**Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**

journal homepage: [www.archives-pmr.org](http://www.archives-pmr.org)

Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation 2013;94:977-89



**REVIEW ARTICLE (META-ANALYSIS)**

**Treatment With Botulinum Toxin Improves Upper-Extremity Function Post Stroke: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis**

Norine Foley, MSc,<sup>a</sup> Sheliaiah Pereira, MSc,<sup>a</sup> Katherine Salter, MSc,<sup>a</sup>  
Manuel Murie Fernandez, PhD,<sup>b</sup> Mark Speechley, PhD,<sup>c</sup> Keith Sequeira, MD,<sup>d,e</sup>  
Thomas Miller, MD,<sup>a,d,e</sup> Robert Teasell, MD<sup>a,d,e</sup>

**Table 3** Treatment effect sizes grouped by similarity of outcome

Measure	Outcome Type	Standardized Mean Difference (95% Confidence Interval), <i>P</i> value
Disability Assessment Scale	Scales developed specifically to assess response to treatment with BTX-A	0.688 (0.454–1.012), <i>P</i> < .0001
Disability Scale		
Action Research Arm Test	Assessments of motor function	0.406 (0.85–0.727), <i>P</i> = .013
Motor Assessment Scale		
Motor Activity Log	Generalized disability	0.372 (–0.002 to 0.746), <i>P</i> = .051
Barthel Index		

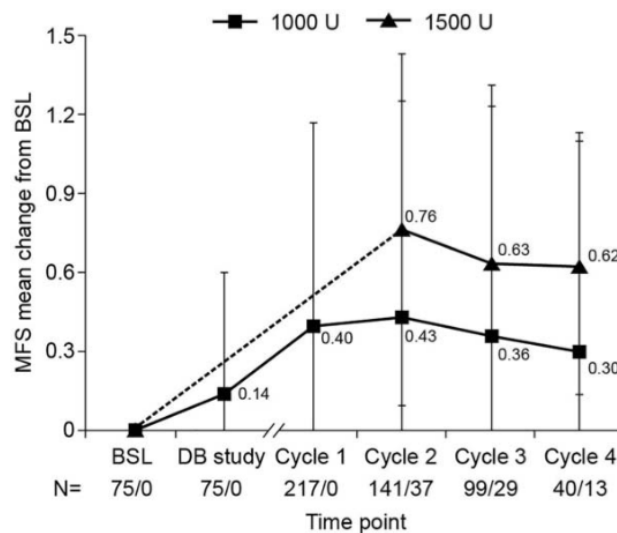
## ORIGINAL REPORT

FUNCTIONAL GOAL ACHIEVEMENT IN POST-STROKE SPASTICITY  
PATIENTS: THE BOTOX® ECONOMIC SPASTICITY TRIAL (BEST)

Anthony B. Ward, MD, FRCP<sup>1</sup>, Jörg Wissel, MD, FRCP<sup>2</sup>, Jörgen Borg, MD<sup>3</sup>,  
Per Ertzgaard, MD<sup>4</sup>, Christoph Herrmann, MD<sup>5</sup>, Jai Kulkarni, MD, FRCP<sup>6</sup>,  
Kristina Lindgren, MD<sup>7</sup>, Iris Reuter, MD<sup>8</sup>, Mohamed Sakel, FRCP<sup>9</sup>, Patrik Säterö, MD<sup>10</sup>,  
Satyendra Sharma, MD, FRCP<sup>11</sup>, Theodore Wein, MD, FRCP<sup>12</sup>, Nicola Wright, MSc<sup>13</sup>  
and Antony Fulford-Smith, MB, BS, MRCGP<sup>13</sup>; on behalf of the BEST study group

Table VI. Level of principal active functional goal attainment, assessed at week 24, or 10 weeks after the second injection

	OnabotulinumtoxinA + SC	Placebo + SC
Upper limb principal active functional goals*, ITT population (assessable patients), n	n = 62 (n = 54)	n = 62 (n = 52)
+2	3 (5.6)	1 (1.9)
+1	7 (13.0)	3 (5.8)
0	11 (20.4)	9 (17.3)
-1	19 (35.2)	16 (30.8)
-2	12 (22.2)	20 (38.5)
-3	2 (3.7)	3 (5.8)
Median	-1	-1
Median difference (95% CI); p-value	0.0 (0.0 to 1.0); p = 0.034	
Lower limb principal active functional goals*, ITT population (assessable patients), n	n = 77 (n = 69)	n = 72 (n = 66)
+2	3 (4.3)	11 (16.7)
+1	9 (13.0)	5 (7.6)
0	18 (26.1)	14 (21.2)
-1	17 (24.6)	12 (18.2)
-2	19 (27.5)	21 (31.8)
-3	3 (4.3)	3 (4.5)
Median	-1	-1
Median difference (95% CI); p-value	0.0 (-1.0 to 0.0); p = 0.724	

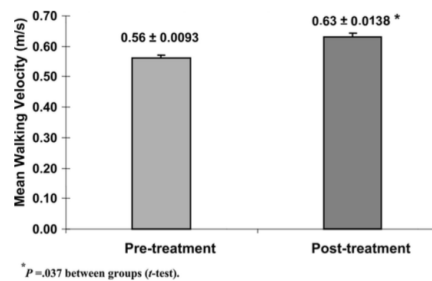
\*ITT: intention-to-treat; <sup>b</sup>SC: standard of care.

Gracies et al, Muscle &amp; Nerve 2018

## Influence of Botulinum Toxin Type A Treatment of Elbow Flexor Spasticity on Hemiparetic Gait

### ABSTRACT

Esquenazi A, Mayer N, Garreta R: Influence of botulinum toxin type A treatment of elbow flexor spasticity on hemiparetic gait. *Am J Phys Med Rehabil* 2008; 87:305–311.



**FIGURE 1** Change in self-selected comfortable walking velocity. \*P = 0.037 between groups (t test).

### Letter by Munin et al Regarding Article, "Botulinum Toxin for the Upper Limb After Stroke (BoTULS) Trial: Effect on Impairment, Activity Limitation, and Pain"

Michael C. Munin, Douglas J. Weber and Elizabeth R. Skidmore

*Stroke*. 2011;42:e412; originally published online June 2, 2011;

- ☐ Because functional improvement was the primary outcome of this trial, inaccurate placement of toxin combined with suboptimal dosing of limited numbers of muscles may explain why the intervention group did not show improvement in ARAT relative to controls.



PM R 9 (2017) 136-148

www.pmrjournal.org

Original Research

## OnabotulinumtoxinA Injection for Poststroke Upper-Limb Spasticity: Guidance for Early Injectors From a Delphi Panel Process

David M. Simpson, MD, Atul T. Patel, MD, Abraham Alfaro, PhD, DO, Ziyad Ayyoub, MD, David Charles, MD, Khashayar Dashtipour, MD, PhD, Alberto Esquenazi, MD, Glenn D. Graham, MD, John R. McGuire, MD, Ib Odderson, MD, PhD

	Muscles			Technique and Total Dose
	Pectoralis Complex	Latissimus Dorsi		
Adducted Shoulder*				
Panelists (%) recommending injection of this muscle	87.5	75		LT: yes <sup>†</sup>
OnabotulinumtoxinA dose, U (mode)	75	75		150
OnabotulinumtoxinA dose, U (range)	75-100	75		100-200
Number of injection sites per muscle	4	4		
	Muscles			Technique and Total Dose
	Brachioradialis	Biceps Brachii	Brachialis	
Flexed Elbow				
Panelists (%) recommending injection of this muscle	100	87.5	75	LT: yes <sup>†</sup>
OnabotulinumtoxinA dose, U (mode)	25	50	75	150
OnabotulinumtoxinA dose, U (range)	25-50	0-50	50-100	100-150
Number of injection sites per muscle	2	4	2	
	Muscles			Technique and Total Dose
	Pronator Quadratus	Pronator Teres		
Pronated Forearm				
Panelists (%) recommending injection of this muscle	100	100		LT: yes <sup>†</sup>
OnabotulinumtoxinA dose, U (mode)	25	50		75
OnabotulinumtoxinA dose, U (range)	0-25	45-60		50-100
Number of injection sites per muscle	1	2		

D.M. Simpson et al. / PM R 9 (2017) 136-148

Flexed Wrist	Muscles		Technique and Total Dose			
	Flexor Carpi Radialis	Flexor Carpi Ulnaris				
Panelists (%) recommending injection of this muscle	100	100	LT: yes <sup>1</sup>			
OnabotulinumtoxinA dose, U (mode)	50	50	100			
OnabotulinumtoxinA dose, U (range)	50-75	25-50	60-100			
Number of injection sites per muscle	2	2				
Flexed Fingers	Muscles		Technique and Total Dose			
	Flexor Digitorum Superficialis	Flexor Digitorum Profundus				
Panelists (%) recommending injection of this muscle	100	100	LT: yes <sup>1</sup>			
OnabotulinumtoxinA dose, U (mode)	50	50	100			
OnabotulinumtoxinA dose, U (range)	20-60	25-75	50-100			
Number of injection sites per muscle	2	2				
Thumb-in-palm	Muscles			Technique and Total Dose		
	Flexor Pollicis Longus	Adductor Pollicis	Flexor Pollicis Brevis			
Panelists (%) recommending injection of this muscle	100	87.5	87.5	LT: yes <sup>1</sup>		
OnabotulinumtoxinA dose, U (mode)	40	15	20	75		
OnabotulinumtoxinA dose, U (range)	40-50	10-20	12.5-20	50-75		
Number of injection sites per muscle	2	1	1			
Clenched Fist	Muscles					Technique and Total Dose
	Flexor Digitorum Superficialis	Flexor Digitorum Profundus	Flexor Pollicis Brevis	Flexor Pollicis Longus	Adductor Pollicis Longus	
Panelists (%) recommending injection of this muscle	100	100	75	100	75	LT: yes <sup>1</sup>
OnabotulinumtoxinA dose, U (mode)	50	50	15	25	10	150
OnabotulinumtoxinA dose, U (range)	40-50	25-60	10-15	25-30	10-12.5	125-175
Number of injection sites per muscle	2	2	1	2	1	

*D.M. Simpson et al. / PM R 9 (2017) 136-148*

### Three most common aggregate postures

	Aggregate Postures	Starting Dose (Typical)	Total Dose (Maximum)
1	Adducted shoulder Flexed elbow Pronated forearm Flexed wrist Clenched fist	300 U	400 U
2	Flexed elbow Pronated forearm Flexed wrist Clenched fist	300 U	400 U
3	Flexed wrist Clenched fist	200 U	300 U

*D.M. Simpson et al. / PM R 9 (2017) 136-148*



J Rehabil Med 2011; 43: 1032–1037

# ORIGINAL REPORT

## INVESTIGATING MUSCLE SELECTION FOR BOTULINUM TOXIN-A INJECTIONS IN ADULTS WITH POST-STROKE UPPER LIMB SPASTICITY

Ian J. Baguley, MBBS PhD<sup>1</sup>, Melissa T. Nott, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Lynne Turner-Stokes, DM FRCP<sup>2</sup>, Stephen De Graaff, MBBS FAFRM<sup>3</sup>, Pesi Katrak, MD FAFRM<sup>4</sup>, Paul McCrory, MBBS PhD FRACP<sup>5</sup>, Monica de Abadal, MD MBA/HSA<sup>6</sup> and Andrew Hughes, MD<sup>7</sup>

- ❑ Muscle selection and botulinum toxin-A dosage were not significantly associated with spasticity severity or with patient-identified goals.
- ❑ Between-site differences in injection practices suggested that injector beliefs, rather than patient characteristics, were the dominant feature driving botulinum toxin-A injection strategy for post-stroke upper limb spasticity.
- ❑ This result looks into the “black box” of rehabilitation, revealing significant variation in injector beliefs

## MANUAL NEEDLE PLACEMENT: ACCURACY OF BOTULINUM TOXIN A INJECTIONS

ALEXIS SCHNITZLER, MD,<sup>1</sup> NICHOLAS ROCHE, MD,<sup>1</sup> PHILIPPE DENORMANDIE, MD,<sup>2</sup> CHRISTINE LAUTRIDOU, MD,<sup>2</sup> BERNARD PARRATTE, MD, PhD,<sup>3</sup> and FRANÇOIS GENET, MD<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department, Raymond Poincaré Hospital, AP-HP, University of Versailles Saint Quentin, 104 Boulevard Raymond Poincaré, 92890 Garches, France

<sup>2</sup> Orthopaedic Surgery Department, Raymond Poincaré Hospital, AP-HP, University of Versailles Saint Quentin, Garches, France

<sup>3</sup> Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department, University of J Minjoz, Besançon, France

Accepted 6 April 2012

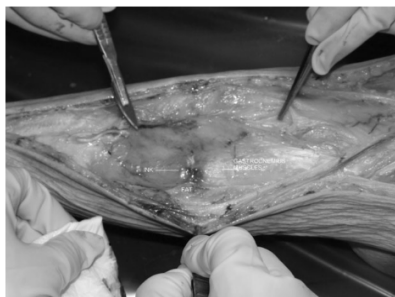



FIGURE 1. Successful injection (ink in the gastrocnemius muscle).




FIGURE 2. Unsuccessful injection (superficial, ink in the fat).

*Muscle Nerve* 46: 531–534, 2012



**ACRM**  
AMERICAN CONGRESS OF  
REHABILITATION MEDICINE

**Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**  
Journal homepage: [www.archives-pmr.org](http://www.archives-pmr.org)  
Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation 2015;96:2067-78



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REVIEW ARTICLE

### Impact of Injection-Guiding Techniques on the Effectiveness of Botulinum Toxin for the Treatment of Focal Spasticity and Dystonia: A Systematic Review

Anca-Irina Grigoriu, MD, MSc,<sup>a</sup> Mickael Dinomais, MD, PhD,<sup>b,c</sup>  
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**Conclusions:** These results strongly recommend instrumented guidance of BoNT-A injection for the treatment of spasticity in adults and children (ES or US), and of focal dystonia such as spasmodic torticollis (EMG). No specific recommendations can be made regarding the choice of instrumented guiding technique, except that US appears to be more effective than ES for spastic equinus in adults with stroke.

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SPECIAL ARTICLE

### Sonographic guide for botulinum toxin injections of the upper limb: EUROMUSCULUS/USPRM spasticity approach

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# Take home messages

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See **Articles** page 992

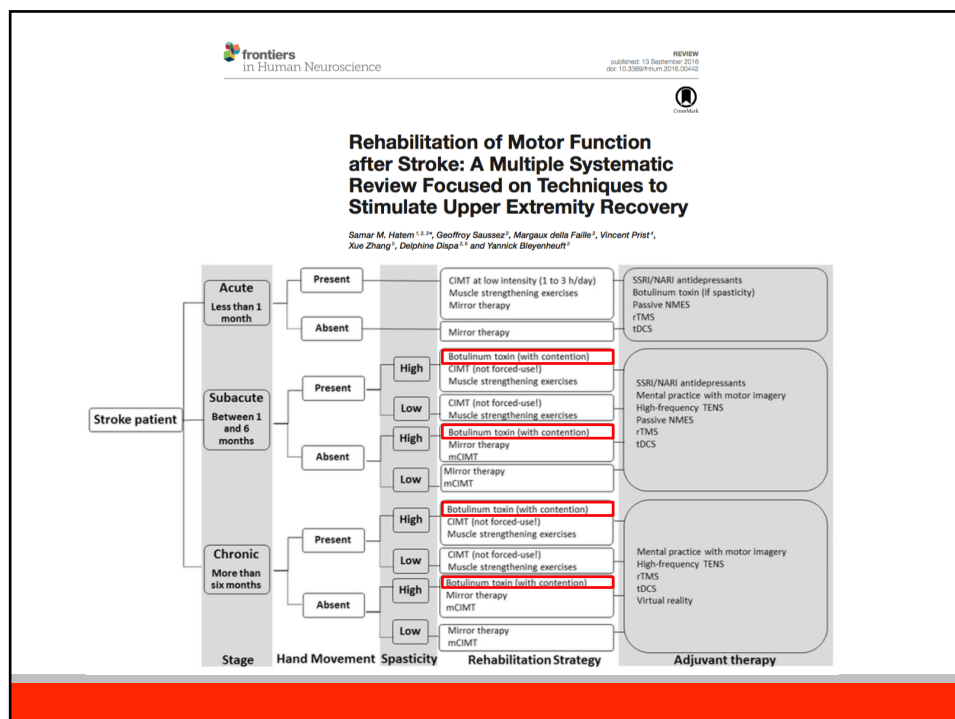
*\*Gert Kwakkel, Carel G M Meskers*

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## Take home messages

- ❑ In view of this complexity, it is not surprising that a treatment to counteract the hyperexcitability component of spasticity does not automatically result in improved upper limb function.
- ❑ There is increasing evidence that the effects of botulinum toxin A injections can be maximised by a team of health professionals such as nurses, physical and occupational therapists, and orthotists, who collectively aim to improve upper limb capacity, improve basic upper limb activities such as hand hygiene and dressing ability, or reduce deformity and pain after stroke or traumatic brain injury.

\*Gert Kwakkel, Carel G M Meskers [www.thelancet.com/neurology](http://www.thelancet.com/neurology) Vol 14 October 2015



G Model  
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### Review

## Adjuvant treatments associated with botulinum toxin injection for managing spasticity: An overview of the literature

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## Take home messages -2

- ☐ Studies are needed to establish how changes in the neuronal component of spasticity interact longitudinally with the progressive biomechanical changes in different phenotypes after stroke or traumatic brain injury.
- ☐ Trials are needed in which the accompanying biomechanical changes, including muscle shortening and contractures, are prevented with botulinum toxin A injections at an early stage after brain injury.
- ☐ Third, the assumed association between reducing muscle tone and meaningful gains in task performance of the upper paretic limb is still poorly understood and seldom adequately investigated. Biomechanical and neurophysiological measurements, preferably done during meaningful tasks, are needed to investigate this association.

\*Gert Kwakkel, Carel G M Meskers [www.thelancet.com/neurology](http://www.thelancet.com/neurology) Vol 14 October 2015

3 BoNT-A injection		
	Grade of evidence	Strength
3.1 Patients should be selected for BoNT-A on the basis of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• focal or multi-focal problems due to spasticity</li> <li>• a dynamic spastic component as opposed to contracture</li> <li>• clearly identified goals for treatment and anticipated functional gains (taking into account the risks of any negative impact where patients rely on their spasticity for function).</li> </ul>	E1 E2	Strong
2.4 BoNT-A injection must be part of a rehabilitation programme involving physical management and/or rehabilitation to achieve an optimal clinical effect.	RA E1 E2	Moderate



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