Manual of Botulinum Toxin Therapy
Second Edition
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Contents

List of contributors page ix
Preface xiii

1 The pretherapeutic history of botulinum neurotoxin 1
   Frank J. Erbguth

2 Botulinum neurotoxin: history of clinical development 8
   Daniel Truong and Mark Hallett

3 Pharmacology of botulinum neurotoxins 12
   Daniel Truong and Mark Hallett

4 Immunological properties of botulinum neurotoxins 16
   Hans Bigalke, Dirk Dressler and Jürgen Frevert

5 Treatment of cervical dystonia 22
   Daniel Truong, Karen Frei and Cynthia L. Comella

6 Examination and treatment of complex cervical dystonia 35
   Gerhard Reichel

7 Ultrasound guidance for botulinum neurotoxin therapy: cervical dystonia 46
   Katharine E. Alter

8 Treatment of blepharospasm 60
   Carlo Colosimo, Dorina Tiple and Alfredo Berardelli

9 Botulinum neurotoxin in oromandibular dystonia 64
   Roongroj Bhidayasiri, Francisco Cardoso and Daniel Truong

10 Treatment of focal hand dystonia 71
    Barbara Illovsy Karp, Chandi Das, Daniel Truong and Mark Hallett

11 Botulinum neurotoxin therapy for laryngeal muscle hyperactivity syndromes 85
    Daniel Truong, Arno Olthoff and Rainer Laskawi

12 The use of botulinum neurotoxin in otorhinolaryngology 92
    Ranier Laskawi, Arno Olthoff and Oleg Olegovich Ivanov

13 Treatment of hemifacial spasm 101
    Karen Frei

14 Spasticity 107
    Mayank S. Pathak and Allison Brashear

15 The use of botulinum neurotoxin in spastic infantile cerebral palsy 119
    Ann Tilton and H. Kerr Graham

16 The role of ultrasound for botulinum neurotoxin injection in childhood spasticity 128
    Bettina Westhoff

17 The use of botulinum neurotoxin in spasticity using ultrasound guidance 133
    Andrea Santamato, Franco Molteni and Pietro Fiore

18 The use of botulinum neurotoxin in tic disorders and essential hand and head tremor 160
    Joseph Jankovic

19 Treatment of stiff-person syndrome with botulinum neurotoxin 168
    Diana Richardson and Bahman Jabbari

20 Botulinum neurotoxin applications in ophthalmology 174
    Peter Roggenkamper and Alan Scott

21 Cosmetic uses of botulinum neurotoxins 181
    Joshua Spanogle, Dee Anna Glaser and Christopher Zachary
Contents

22 Hyperhidrosis 194
   Henning Hamm and Markus K. Naumann

23 Botulinum neurotoxin A treatment for ischemic digits 203
   Michael W. Neumeister and Kelli Webb

24 Botulinum neurotoxin in wound healing 210
   Holger G. Gassner

25 Use of botulinum neurotoxin in neuropathic pain 216
   Szu-Kuan Yang and Chaur-Jong Hu

26 The use of botulinum neurotoxin in the management of headache disorders 222
   Stephen D. Silberstein

27 The use of botulinum neurotoxin in musculoskeletal pain and arthritis 233
   Jasvinder A. Singh

28 Treatment of plantar fasciitis with botulinum neurotoxins 243
   Bahman Jabbari and Shivam Om Mittal

29 Use of botulinum neurotoxin in the treatment of low-back pain 247
   José De Andrés and Gustavo Fabregat

30 Use of botulinum neurotoxin in the treatment of piriformis syndrome 259
   Loren M. Fishman and Sarah B. Schmidhofer

31 Ultrasound-guided botulinum neurotoxin injections for thoracic outlet syndrome 269
   Katharine E. Alter

32 Botulinum neurotoxin in the gastrointestinal tract 278
   Vito Annese and Daniele Gui

33 Botulinum neurotoxin applications in urological disorders 288
   Brigitte Schurch and Stefano Carda

Index 295
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Preface

The clinical use of botulinum neurotoxin comes into its third decade of existence with many new off-label indications for a host of different medical conditions. Originally used specifically for strabismus, blepharospasm and spasmodic torticollis, botulinum neurotoxin is now commonly employed in diverse disciplines by many specialists. Its unique properties requires local application for efficacy . . . and while this is relatively simple in some locations such as the skin and superficial muscles of the face, it is much more complicated in others, at times requiring ultrasound guidance or endoscopic assistance. Not all neurotoxins are the same and, therefore, an in-depth understanding of their pharmacological actions, limitations and complications is required.

This book tries to answer many of the questions posed above with the contributions from a team of international experts. As in the first edition, the emphasis in this book is on technique, so it is richly endowed with illustrations concerning accurate access techniques to help physicians to become familiar and fully competent.

The readers will find instruction and discussion about widely accepted treatments, and others that are less known. While some treatments will gain wide acceptance, others may be passing fads, and we recommend that the readers evaluate them critically. We hope that the book will serve as teaching aid for the beginner, and a practical resource for the advanced user.

We are grateful to the contributors of this book and trust that physicians who employ botulinum neurotoxin in their practices will find it valuable.

We thank Michael Tsao, Mary Ann Chapman and Lisa Brauer for their assistance; Dr Hiep Truong for drawing some of the pictures. We also express our appreciation to our families and friends for their support and understanding during the preparation of this book.