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Foreword

Applications of botulinum toxin in physical medicine and rehabilitation

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This issue of the *Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Clinics of North America* provides clinicians with many practical applications of a new technique: botulinum toxin injection as a treatment modality for rehabilitation physicians.

Botulinum toxin has many useful applications other than its approved uses for strabismus, blepharospasm, hemifacial spasm, cervical dystonia, and cosmetic reduction of glabellar frown lines. This issue details these applications and includes articles on its use in pediatric disorders, dental problems (eg, bruxism), dysphonia, bladder and bowel problems, pain states, spasticity, upper motor neuron paresis, headache, hyperhidrosis, and sialorrhea/drooling. In addition, there is an article on the use of electromyography and electrical stimulation as an aid for guidance of the injection needle.

New information is always exciting to share, and it is a pleasure to present readers with practical applications that they will be able to incorporate into their practices, often before they are published elsewhere. That is the advantage of the *Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Clinics of North America*: it is a ''living'' textbook, continuously updated and easily retrievable information for reference.

Dr. Odderson's work on the novel uses of botulinum toxin has always intrigued me, and I consider him to be one of the truly creative physiatrists currently in practice. He has been testing botulinum toxin injections for treatment of hyperhidrosis for many years. More recently, I have become

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aware of his use of this modality for drooling—a serious problem in rehabilitation diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and stroke.

Botulinum toxin injection is a tool that can be used by almost every physiatrist, whether treating neurological disorders or musculoskeletal injuries. It is truly one of the new techniques of the decade, and I thank Dr. Odderson and his cadre of expert authors for this excellent contribution to the rehabilitation literature.

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