BACKGROUND

Treatment using botulinum toxin A (BoNT/A) is indicated for both aesthetic (Ax) and therapeutic (Tx) purposes, but aesthetic practitioners are often unaware of their patients receiving additional toxin for therapeutic indications. Unbeknownst to their HCPs, some patients are receiving much higher doses. HCPs also commonly report needing shorter intervals between sessions or higher dosing to achieve the same effect, which suggests the development of resistance that could result from over-exposure to certain BoNT/A formulations.

This survey examines the discrepancy between assumed and actual BoNT/A dosage, and the potential consequences resulting from the lack of dose awareness.

METHODS

A global, web-based survey was conducted to assess the delivery and receipt of botulinum toxin among specialist HCPs and patients, respectively. A total of 398 HCPs made up of specialists in aesthetics, dermatology, plastic surgery, and dentistry, responded to the survey. A broader consumer survey was completed by 490 patients, and a focused survey targeting an equal proportion of BoNT/A Ax-only and Ax-Tx crossover users was completed by 246 patients.

RESULTS

AWARENESS OF AESTHETIC AND THERAPEUTIC CROSSOVER USAGE OF BOTULINUM TOXIN TYPE A

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DISCUSSION

With the rising use of BoNT/A in aesthetics, patients are being exposed to far more toxin, potentially over a power of magnitude greater, than their providers are aware.

As the total dosage per patient increases, the risk of developing resistance to BoNT/A treatment grows. This can be observed in increased required frequency or dosage of BoNT/A to achieve the same efficacy.

There is a need for providers to be aware of and track the total dosage for both aesthetic and therapeutic needs, as this may affect the available lifespan of treatment for each patient.

The FDA and EMA have issued guidance for assessing and mitigating immunogenicity of therapeutic protein products including BoNT-As, stating that a risk-based approach to evaluating and managing immunogenicity should be used during product development and manufacturing.

References

