

Patient information factsheet

After a trigeminal injection

You have been given this factsheet to help you take care of your eyes, mouth and face after your trigeminal injection.

Care of the eye

After your trigeminal injection, you will feel a numbness in your face which may include your eye (or cornea). This loss of sensation may increase your risk of eye infections and corneal ulceration, so we advise you to take the following precautions:

- Don't allow any soap to enter your eye when washing.
- Don't rub your eye.
- Avoid wearing contact lenses.
- If you wear spectacles, ask for a protective shield to be fitted to prevent dust entering your eye.
- Inspect your eye each morning and night for signs of infection.

Make an appointment to see your GP or visit your nearest eye casualty department as soon as possible if:

- your eye looks red or sore, feels hot and gritty, or has any irritation
- you notice any disturbance of vision, such as blurring or haziness

If you have any other questions or concerns about your eyes, you can contact us on **023 8120 3256**.

Care of the mouth

You may develop a few small blisters or mouth ulcers inside and/or around your mouth. This is caused by tiny nerve endings reacting to the procedure and may last for a few weeks.

Salted or medicated mouthwash will help to keep your mouth clean, particularly after eating food (your pharmacist will be able to recommend a suitable mouthwash). Take care with hot food and drinks if you have numbness around your mouth, lips and tongue.

Any major blisters or ulceration may be due to cold sores (herpes simplex). If you develop this, you should see your GP who may wish to prescribe antiviral treatment.

Care of the face

Your face may feel a little bruised and tender around the area where you had the injection, but this should settle down in a few days. Keep the area clean and dry. Use caution if you shave your face with a razor, especially if you have any numbness.

Medication management

Your doctor will have given you some medicine and explained how to take it. Continue taking the same doses of your medicines for some days, until you are confident you are pain free. At this point, you will need to slowly reduce your doses. Don't stop taking the medicines abruptly.

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It's usually best to start by reducing your most recently introduced medicines. Twice a week, reduce the dose a little bit more until either pain recurs or the medicine has been stopped altogether. You can then start reducing other medicines, one at a time, in the same way. By gradually reducing and stopping all the medicines, you can make the most of the pain relief afforded by the injection.

Infection

It is quite common for cold sores (herpes simplex) to be reactivated after a trigeminal injection.

In very rare circumstances, meningitis can occur after a deep injection of this sort. If you develop a severe headache, a fever and neck stiffness, contact **111** for advice or go to your nearest emergency department.

If you have any concerns, do not hesitate to contact your GP or the contact numbers below.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us using the details below:

C neuro ward (day care) team
Telephone: **023 8120 3256**

Dean Wall, clinical nurse specialist (botulinum toxin and facial pain)
Telephone: **07789 935386** (Monday afternoons only)

Girish Vajramani, consultant neurosurgeon
Telephone: **023 8120 6057** (Monday to Friday)

Diederik Bulters, consultant neurosurgeon
Telephone: **023 8120 5282**

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