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Blepharoplasty yes or no? A single-center study on the influence of blepharoplasty on treatment with botulinum toxin injections

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Background: Blepharospasm (BS) is a focal dystonia that can be treated with botulinum toxin (BoNT) injections [1-2]. However, some poor responder patients resort to upper eyelid surgery (blepharoplasty) in order to improve their symptoms.

Objectives: To compare the responses to the BoNT injections of both groups of patients (Blepharoplasty YES/NO), in order to clarify if the surgery may improve the response to BoNT.

Methods: We collected data of 60 BS patients [3], and we divided them into two groups – blepharoplasty YES (8) and NO (52). Patients who underwent to surgery were operated on at least 3 years before this assessment. Then, we compared their demographic – age, sex – and clinical data – age at onset, disease duration, duration of the treatment with BoNT.
Therefore, we assessed the level of disability trough the Blepharospasm Disability Index (BSDI) [4] and the severity of BS trough Jancovic Rating Scale (JRS) [5] in two times - before the BoNT injections and after 4 weeks. Finally, we compared the differences between their scores (post BoNT – pre BoNT).

Results: Groups did not present any significative differences in terms of demographic and clinical data. BSDI and JRS differences of scores were significantly higher in non-operated patients. Therefore, improvement after BoNT was higher in non-operated patients.

Conclusions: Blepharoplasty does not provide a long term benefit in patients with BS since they present severe dystonia and few years after surgery response to BoNT injections is poor.

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