

Botulinum toxin injections for low-back pain and sciatica (2011)

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COCHRANE BACK REVIEW GROUP
The best evidence in back and neck pain care



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Overview of the study

Objectives

- To determine the effects of botulinum toxin injections in adults with low back pain (LBP)

Methods

- Evidence current up to 1 February 2010
- Participants: Adults (age ≥ 18) with non specific LBP and/or sciatica (acute, subacute, or chronic)
- Intervention: All BoNT serotypes injected intramuscularly
- Outcomes measured
 - Primary outcomes: symptoms, disability, overall improvement or proportion of patients recovered, back-specific functional status, well-being
 - Secondary outcomes: physiological outcomes, satisfaction with care, adverse events, outcomes reported for different follow-up periods

Results & Conclusion

- 3 trials (123 participants) included:

Treatment	Evidence	Quality of evidence
BoNT injections	The treatment improved pain, function, or both better than saline injections	Low
	The treatment was better for pain and function compared to traditional acupuncture or steroid injections	Very low

⇒ There is a lack of evidence to confirm effectiveness of BoNT injections for patients with LBP