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Patient Death Probably Unrelated to Injection

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In the article “The effect of botulinum toxin A injections in the spine muscles for cerebral palsy scoliosis” by Wong et al. (1), we reported on the effects of botulinum injections in the spine for neuromuscular scoliosis. We also reported one death of a severely handicapped child after treatment, and at an interim evaluation we terminated the study.

We have become aware that the reported death has been interpreted to be a direct result of the injection treatment—an interpretation included in this JBJS Specialty Update (see reference 47).

However, we would like to add that the injection treatment was most probably unrelated to the death, which occurred several months after the injection and was more likely related to the two consecutive surgical procedures (bilateral arthrodesis of the wrists) that were performed after the injection treatment. Both surgical procedures resulted in postoperative pneumonias, the latter of which was followed by a prolonged admission, during which the patient finally died.

We find it important to convey this point if indeed this injection treatment is found to be clinically useful in the future.

References

1 Wong C, Pedersen SA, Kristensen BB, Gosvig K, Sonne-Holm S. The Effect of Botulinum Toxin A Injections in the Spine Muscles for Cerebral Palsy Scoliosis, Examined in a Prospective, Randomized Tripleblinded Study. *Spine (Phila Pa 1976)*. 2015 Dec;40(23):E1205-11.

Conflict of Interest: None Declared