

RimabotulinumtoxinB

ACG: A-0519 (AC)

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Clinical Indications

- RimabotulinumtoxinB may be indicated for **1 or more** of the following(1)(2)(3)(4)(5):
 - Cervical dystonia (spasmodic torticollis), as indicated by **1 or more** of the following[A](22)(23)(24)(25)(26):**■**
 - Initial course, as indicated by **ALL** of the following:
 - Age 16 years or older
 - Neck pain or abnormal head position causing adverse effect on daily functioning
 - No fixed contractures causing decreased neck range of motion
 - No infection at proposed injection site
 - No neuromuscular disease (eg, myasthenia gravis)
 - Subsequent course, as indicated by **ALL** of the following:
 - Age 16 years or older
 - Favorable response to prior administration of rimabotulinumtoxinB
 - Sialorrhea (excessive salivation) due to neurologic disease, as indicated by **1 or more** of the following[B](35)(37)(38)(39)(40)(41):**■**
 - Initial course
 - Subsequent course, with favorable response to prior administration of rimabotulinumtoxinB

Evidence Summary

Background

RimabotulinumtoxinB is a neurotoxin purified from cultures of the type B strain of *Clostridium botulinum*.(1) (**EG 2**) Botulinum toxin injection into striated muscles results in paralysis within 2 to 5 days, lasting for 2 to 3 months. Botulinum toxin has inhibiting effects on dystonia and spasticity, and it blocks autonomic activity to smooth muscle and exocrine glands. There are 7 different serotypes (A to G), each with varying potencies and characteristics of action.(6) (**EG 2**) Type A (commercially available as onabotulinumtoxinA, abobotulinumtoxinA, and incobotulinumtoxinA) has been by far the most-studied serotype, but type B, the subject of far fewer studies, is also commercially available as rimabotulinumtoxinB.(1)(2)(7) (**EG 2**) The commercially available agents differ in synthesis and purification processes, potency, duration of action, and tendency toward clinically relevant systemic spread due to migration from the injection site.(2)(8)(9)(10)(11) (**EG 2**)

Criteria

For cervical dystonia (spasmodic torticollis), evidence demonstrates at least moderate certainty of at least moderate net benefit. (**RG A1**) Expert evidence-based guidelines and a network meta-analysis have concluded that all 4 commercially available botulinum toxins are effective as first-line treatment for this condition.(27)(28)(29)(30)(31)(32) (**EG 1**) A systematic review and meta-analysis of 4 randomized studies of 441 patients found significant evidence that rimabotulinumtoxinB is effective in reducing intensity of impairment from cervical dystonia, including intensity, disability, and pain.(33) (**EG 1**) A systematic review of 3 randomized studies with 270 patients found that there is low-quality evidence that botulinum toxin A and botulinum toxin B have comparable efficacy for cervical dystonia.(34) (**EG 1**)

For sialorrhea due to neurologic disease, evidence demonstrates a net benefit, but of less than moderate certainty, and may consist of a consensus opinion of experts, case studies, and common standard care. (**RG A2**) A systematic review of 6 randomized controlled trials and comparative clinical studies (162 total patients) treating sialorrhea due to Parkinson disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or neuroleptic medication concluded that botulinum toxin type B significantly reduced sialorrhea.(35) (**EG 1**) A randomized controlled trial

compared 2 doses of rimabotulinumtoxinB (2500 units and 3500 units) with placebo in 187 adult patients with sialorrhea secondary to any disorder, most frequently Parkinson disease. At 4 weeks following injection, both treatment dose groups demonstrated improvements in unstimulated salivary flow rate compared with placebo.(41) **(EG 1)** A systematic review evaluating botulinum toxins for sialorrhea in patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis identified 3 studies of botulinum toxin type B, including one randomized controlled trial and 2 single-arm studies (43 total patients). Botulinum toxin type B therapy was associated with subjective symptom improvement as compared with baseline and placebo, but studies were limited by the use of nonvalidated outcome measures and lack of blinding.(42) **(EG 1)** Expert consensus guidelines and review articles recommend that botulinum toxin type B may be considered as a treatment option for sialorrhea in patients with neurologic disease, including amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.(37)(38)(40)(43)(44)(45) **(EG 2)**

Inconclusive or Non-Supportive Evidence

For bladder dysfunction, evidence is insufficient, conflicting, or poor and demonstrates an incomplete assessment of net benefit vs harm; additional research is recommended. **(RG B)** A systematic review of randomized trials reported a relatively short duration of efficacy of only 10 weeks for botulinum toxin type B compared with 3 to 12 months for botulinum toxin type A.(12) **(EG 1)**

For hyperhidrosis, evidence is insufficient, conflicting, or poor and demonstrates an incomplete assessment of net benefit vs harm; additional research is recommended. **(RG B)** Expert evidence-based reviews found evidence of effectiveness for botulinum type A preparations; however, evidence specifically related to rimabotulinumtoxinB for this condition was lacking.(13)(14)(15) **(EG 2)** A randomized controlled trial of 24 patients with axillary hyperhidrosis who were assigned to either onabotulinumtoxinA or rimabotulinumtoxinB found comparable efficacy, safety, and patient satisfaction after 20 weeks, although the authors could not rule out bias due to small sample size and stated that larger confirmatory studies are necessary.(16) **(EG 1)**

For poststroke spasticity, evidence is insufficient, conflicting, or poor and demonstrates an incomplete assessment of net benefit vs harm; additional research is recommended. **(RG B)** Expert evidence-based reviews have not found any conclusive studies of the efficacy of rimabotulinumtoxinB because most studies have focused on botulinum toxin type A.(17)(18) **(EG 2)** A randomized controlled study of 24 adults with disabling elbow flexor overactivity after either stroke or traumatic brain injury found that rimabotulinumtoxinB administration was associated with significant short-term improvement for up to 3 months, but the authors indicated that larger studies with longer-term follow-up of functional improvement are needed.(19) **(EG 1)**

For spasticity in children with cerebral palsy, evidence is insufficient, conflicting, or poor and demonstrates an incomplete assessment of net benefit vs harm; additional research is recommended. **(RG B)** An expert evidence-based review found only limited studies suggesting efficacy of rimabotulinumtoxinB for spasticity, with some studies suggesting less potency and duration for rimabotulinumtoxinB as compared with botulinum toxin type A.(20) **(EG 2)**

For upper esophageal sphincter dysfunction, evidence is insufficient, conflicting, or poor and demonstrates an incomplete assessment of net benefit vs harm; additional research is recommended. **(RG B)** A systematic review to assess the efficacy and safety of botulinum toxin for improving upper esophageal sphincter dysfunction in patients with dysphagia did not identify any relevant randomized controlled trials and stated there was insufficient evidence to inform clinical practice.(21) **(EG 1)**

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Footnotes

[A] For cervical dystonia, rimabotulinumtoxinB is injected into affected muscles, with or without electromyographic guidance, with dosing tailored to head and neck position, location of pain, muscle hypertrophy, and history of prior response (including to previous botulinum toxin injection) and adverse events. Most patients return to pretreatment status after about 3 to 4 months. Subsequent administration may then take place as necessary.(1) [A in Context Link 1]

[B] For sialorrhea, rimabotulinumtoxinB is injected directly into the parotid and submandibular glands.(35)(36) [B in Context Link 1]

Codes

CPT®: 64616, 64617, 64642, 64643, 64644, 64645, 64646, 64647

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