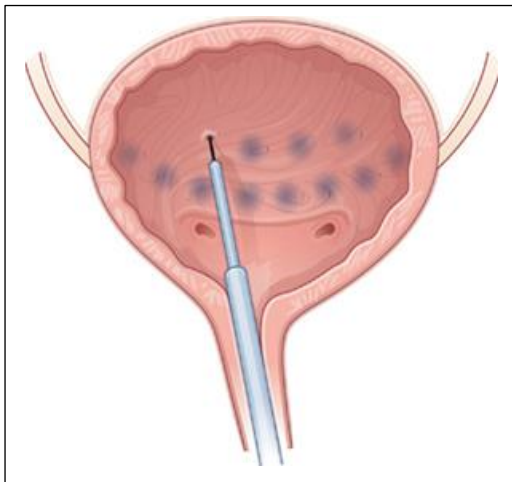




## **Bladder Botox Injections**

*Around 18% of women and men have a type of incontinence called urge incontinence due to overactivity of the muscle wall of the bladder. Most of us have heard of Botox being used in the face to reduce wrinkles but Botox has many medical uses. Botox can also be injected in the muscle wall of the bladder to prevent urgency (a sudden compelling desire to void) and urge incontinence (leakage of urine that occurs before getting to the toilet). With overactive bladder symptoms urgency occurs due to the muscle wall of the bladder switching on (contracting) at the wrong time. Usually the bladder wall muscle should only switch on when we are ready to empty the bladder while at the toilet, with an overactive bladder the muscle contracts even when there is no intention of going to the toilet and this can lead to incontinence. When Botox is injected into the muscle wall of the bladder this encourages the bladder to relax and hold urine in rather than causing incontinence. Botox is injected into the bladder by inserting a cystoscope (a camera) into the bladder through the urethra (the tube through which urine leaves the bladder) and the Botox is injected via a needle into the muscle wall of the bladder. Botox usually takes about a week to become effective and can last up to 12 months when injected into the bladder. This procedure is usually done in the operating theatre with a light anaesthetic. Following the procedure there may be a small amount of blood in the urine and there is a temporary increase in the risk of urinary tract infection and some slowing of the urinary flow. Because Botox wears off over time, there is no permanent detrimental effect on bladder function.*



- *Botox can be injected into the bladder muscle wall to treat urge incontinence*
- *It is a safe and effective treatment*
- *The cost of Botox medication is covered by PBS*
- *It can be effective for 9-12 months*
- *Short term risks include urinary tract infection and slowing of the urine flow*
- *It can be repeated many times if required*
- *Botox can stop urgency and urge incontinence*
- *Botox is not used to treat stress incontinence (leakage that occurs on exercise, coughing and sneezing)*

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