

One female patient with chronic fissure had 20U BT injected at 3 & 9 o'clock position while the remaining 4 patients had injection on either sides of the fissure. All patients were observed over a period of 4 months for symptomatic relief and healing of fissure.

Observation

Of the 4 patients who were injected with BT on either side of the fissure, (3F & 1M) the male patient and 2 female patients showed good symptomatic relief from day-3 onwards and their fissure healed on examining after 6 weeks. One female patient had no effect at all and had to be taken for LIPS. While the female patient who received BT at 3 & 9 o'clock had partial relief of symptoms upto 4 weeks but recurred. She was treated with LIPS.

Thus 3 of 5 patients (60%) showed good symptomatic relief and healed fissures at the end of 4 months. One patient (20%) failed on BT while one patient (20%) had partial relief of symptoms at 4wks and both had to be offered LIPS surgery (40%).

The patients who received BT injection on either sides of fissure did well compared to the one with 3 & 9 o'clock injection. One patient with chronic fissures needed LIPS while the acute fissures resistant to medical treatment healed with BT treatment. One patient had relapse of fissure after BT and one patient did not have any benefit at all.

This was a very mixed bag of results in a short follow-up of 16 weeks (4-months).

Conclusion

In our case study there was good result in 60% cases. Chronic fissures had least benefit from Botulinum Toxin treatment and had to be treated with LIPS. A dose of 20 units of BT injected on either side of the fissure gave good results. BT is a good modality of treatment which should be offered to patients with anal fissures resistant to conservative treatment and before considering surgery. Further studies are required with larger group of patients with respect to site

and dose of injection with a longer follow-up in order to come to a scientifically justifiable conclusion for the use and efficacy of BT injection in the treatment of anal fissures.

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