

R1  R2  R3  PG0  PG1  Estagiário  Tecnólogo  PIBIC    
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Service (sector) Ocular Plastic Surgery - FMABC N° CEP

### **Quality of life in blepharospasm patients treated with Botulinum Toxin-A**

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Purpose: This study is intended to evaluate the impact on the quality of life of blepharospasm (BS) patients treated with botulinum toxin-A (BTX-A). Methods: 35 patients, treated with BTX-A, were evaluated by means of two research tools, namely Medical Outcomes Study Short Form Healthy Survey (SF-36), and Blepharospasm Disability Scale (BDS). Results: Before treatment all domains of SF-36 were significantly worse in patients with essential blepharospasm (BS). Under effective treatment with BTX-A the increase in the indices of SF-36 showed changes in the general health rates of the population under study, with a statistically significant difference between before and after answers ( $p < 0.05$ ). In relating SF-36 with BDS, the BS cases showed significant positive relationships (functional capacity, general health, emotional and social aspects). Conclusions: The present study demonstrates a remarkable negative impact on the quality of life of BS patients, as well as a significant improvement of diseases after BTX-A treatment. Furthermore, the research data seem to justify BTX-A treatment high costs in view of its considerable benefits for the patients' quality of life.