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Lacrimal film evaluation before and after eyelid botulinum toxin A (Prosigneâ) injection in patients with facial dystonia.

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**Purpose:** To evaluate the effect of botulinum toxin A (BTX-A) on the lacrimal film and to compare the quality of life of patients with facial dystonia before and after botulinum toxin A (Prosigneâ) injection into the eyelid.

**Methods:** A prospective study of 20 patients with facial dystonia (9 patients with essential blepharospasm and 11 patients with hemifacial spasm) was performed in the Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Sector of Department of Ophthalmology at the Federal University of Sao Paulo. All patients underwent ophthalmic examination, lacrimal film tests (Rose Bengal, Schirmer's test, lacrimal clearance and breakup time), Fahn Disability Rating Scale and Ocular Surface Disease Index before the botulinum toxin injection and thirty days thereafter.

**Results:** Mean age was 71.9 years old. The male / female ratio was 0.33. Eleven patients (55%) had hemifacial spasm and nine (45%) essential blepharospasm. There was subjective improvement of dry eye symptoms after the treatment. The clinical tests showed that fifty-five per cent of the patients had a baseline reading of less than 5 mm on Schirmer's test; after the treatment, the proportion decreased to forty-five per cent. The basal Schirmer's test did not show any improvement. The mean value breakup time test was 6.46 seconds before and 8.49 seconds after the injection.

**Conclusion:** The dry eye symptoms in patients with facial dystonia may improve after the botulinum toxin injection; however, the clinical tests did not change significantly 30 days after the BTX-A injection.

