Botulinum Toxin
In the Dental Office

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Botulinum toxin, otherwise known as bacterium clostridium botulinum, is a toxin that has been proven to inhibit the release of Ach, which has a neurotransmitter that activates muscle contractions and glandular secretion. Botulinum toxin has been used for medical treatments since 1989, but has recently become a popular innovative dental treatment option. Research and clinical findings have shown that botulinum toxin can treat many dental disorders and be used as an alternative for many different dental treatments and surgery. These disorders include, but are not limited to, temporomandibular disorder (TMD), mandibular spasm, prominent gums, massteric hypertrophy, sialorrhea, and various cosmetic corrections such as a high lip line “gummy smile”. Dentists already have extensive knowledge in the oral and maxillofacial areas, so with proper training and knowledge of the cosmetic treatment protocols dentist can easily be qualified to perform botulinum toxin treatments on their patients. Botulinum toxin has been approved for usage in many medical and a few dental treatment options, but currently more studies and research is needed to approve the expansion of botulinum toxin therapy in the dental industry. Botulinum toxin treatments have shown to have a low risk of side effects and contraindications, are comparably cost effective, and relatively safe, which makes this treatment choice popular among patients. Botulinum toxin therapy has become a popular, innovative treatment option within the dental office, and is becoming the future of dentistry.
References


