

Special Issue

Immunogenicity of Botulinum Toxin

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue is aimed at describing the immunogenicity of botulinum neurotoxins (BoNT). BoNTs are clostridial products and form a family of highly specialized proteins that attack the mechanism of exocytosis in a variety of cells. Different components of BoNT can all induce immune responses. Therefore, the responses to BoNTs are not uniform, and a broad spectrum of responses is observed.

Antibody formation can be life-saving on the one hand, and may be a therapy-limiting factor on the other hand. Several BoNTs have been tried for clinical applications. However, today only BoNT/A is mainly used for clinical applications owing to its long-lasting effect and low antigenicity.

However, even for the development of clinically applicable preparations of botulinum neurotoxin type A (BoNT/A), attempts at purification and improvement in biological function and reduction of immunoresistance are absolutely necessary. Thus far, in all attempts, BoNT/A-treatment can still cause primary, secondary, partial or complete treatment failure. Knowledge of the course of disease before and after BoNT/A-therapy is important.

Guest Editors

Dr. Sara Samadzadeh

1. Departments of Neurology, University of Düsseldorf, Moorenstrasse 5, D-40225 Düsseldorf, Germany
2. Experimental and Clinical Research Center, Charité—Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Corporate Member of Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany
3. Department of Regional Health Research and Molecular Medicine, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark
4. Department of Neurology, Slagelse Hospital, Slagelse, Denmark

Prof. Dr. Harald Hefter

Department of Neurology, University of Dusseldorf, Moorenstr 5, D-40225 Dusseldorf, Germany

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
toxins@mdpi.com

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Department of Microbiology, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA,
USA

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