Botox® for Treatment of Anal Fissure

Anal Fissure

An anal fissure is a small tear in the thin mucosal (outer) layer of the anus. Anal fissures can be caused by passing large or hard stools, constipation, chronic diarrhea, inflammation of the anal area, or childbirth.

Signs and Symptoms of an Anal Fissure

- Sharp pain in the anal area during bowel movements.
- Spasms of the anal sphincter (ring of muscle at the end of the anus).
- Bright red blood on the stool or toilet paper after a bowel movement.
- Itching or irritation around the anus.
- A visible crack in the skin around the anus.

Botox®

- Botox® is a drug made from a toxin produced by the bacterium Clostridium botulinum.
- Botox® is injected into specific muscles where it works to relax or paralyze muscle contractions or block certain nerve impulses.
- A thin needle is used to inject tiny amounts of Botox® into the target muscle.
- It can take several days for the effects of Botox® to become obvious. The benefits usually peak in 2 to 4 weeks and last about 3 to 4 months.
- Many factors effect the success of Botox® injections. A person may require 2 to 3 separate injections before experiencing noticeable benefits.
- The effects of Botox® gradually fade, and repeat injections may be considered.
Botox® and Anal Fissures

- Botox® is used for the treatment of both acute and chronic anal fissures.
- Botox® paralyzes the internal anal sphincter for a short time, reducing spasm and allowing the fissure to heal.

Possible Side Effects and Restrictions of Botox®

- You should not have Botox® if you are pregnant or breast feeding, have a neuromuscular disorder (diseases that affect muscle control), or are allergic to eggs.

- Most people do not have any side effects however, possible side effects could include pain at the injection site, flu-like symptoms, dry mouth, headache, upset stomach, or allergic reaction.

- You could experience a short term loss of control in the passage of gas or stool.

- It is uncommon, but the toxin contained in Botox® can spread to other areas of the body beyond where it was injected.

- Tell your doctor if you are on blood thinners, muscle relaxants, sleeping aids, or allergy medications, as these could affect the results of the injection.