CLINICAL PRACTICE

Injectable DaxibotulinumtoxinA in Cervical Dystonia: A Phase 2 Dose-Escalation Multicenter Study

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Abstract

Background: Injectable daxibotulinumtoxinA (an investigational botulinum toxin, RT002) may offer a more prolonged duration of response—and therefore less frequent dosing—than onabotulinumtoxinA.

Objectives: To perform a phase 2, open-label, dose-escalation study to assess the efficacy and safety of daxibotulinumtoxinA in cervical dystonia.

Methods: Subjects with moderate-to-severe isolated cervical dystonia were enrolled in sequential cohorts to receive a single open-label, intramuscular dose of injectable daxibotulinumtoxinA of up to 200 U (n = 12), 200–300 U (n = 12), or 300–450 U (n = 13; clinicaltrials.gov identifier NCT02706795).

Results: Overall, 33/37 enrollees completed the trial. DaxibotulinumtoxinA was associated with mean reductions in Toronto Western Spasmodic Torticollis Rating Scale (TWSTRS)-Total score of 16.8 (38%) at week 4, 21.3 (50%) at week 6, and 12.8 (30%) at week 24. The proportion of subjects who were responders (achieved \geq 20% reduction in TWSTRS-Total score) was 94% at week 6 and 68% at week 24. The median duration of response (time until > 20% of the improvement in TWSTRS-Total score achieved at week 4 was no longer retained or retreatment was needed) was 25.3 weeks (95% CI, 20.14–26.14 weeks). There were no serious adverse events and there was no apparent dose-related increase in the incidence of adverse events. The most common treatment-related adverse events were dysphagia (14%) and injection site erythema (8%).

Conclusions: Preliminary assessments suggest that injectable daxibotulinumtoxinA at doses up to 450 U is well tolerated and may offer prolonged efficacy in the treatment of cervical dystonia. Further studies involving larger numbers of patients are now warranted.

Introduction

Botulinum toxin (BoNT) is considered first-line treatment for cervical dystonia^{1,2} and can reduce abnormal neck posture and pain, and lessen impairments in activities of daily living. With currently available BoNT type A treatments, injections are repeated

approximately every 12 weeks,³ but many patients feel the need for earlier reinjection⁴ and would prefer a longer-lasting treatment.³ The development of a BoNT with a longer duration of benefit could provide more sustained improvement, lengthen the interval between injections, and lower the number of visits for injections (potentially reducing health care costs).

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Injectable daxibotulinumtoxinA (RT002) is an investigational BoNT that is in clinical development for the treatment of cervical dystonia, glabellar lines, and plantar fasciitis. Injectable daxibotulinumtoxinA is a purified 150 kDa BoNT type A (RTT150) that is devoid of accessory proteins and formulated with a proprietary stabilizing excipient peptide (RTP004) in a lyophilized powder. The peptide is composed of two protein transduction domains on a backbone of consecutive lysines. The lysines carry a positive charge and result in the peptide binding avidly to RTT150 through electrostatic bonds. DaxibotulinumtoxinA is stable at room temperature and is produced without serum albumin or any other animal or human blood products.

In preclinical studies, daxibotulinumtoxinA has been shown to exhibit less diffusion than onabotulinumtoxinA and data suggest that it could offer a relatively greater duration of effect after injection into a target muscle. In clinical studies, injectable daxibotulinumtoxinA has shown a prolonged duration of response in the treatment of glabellar lines^{5,9}—with a significantly longer median duration of response than onabotulinumtoxinA (24 weeks versus 19 weeks; p = 0.030) when daxibotulinumtoxinA was used at the dose being evaluated in phase 3 glabellar line trials (40 U) and onabotulinumtoxinA was used at the dose for which it is approved for glabellar lines (20 U).

An open-label dose-escalation study was performed to provide an initial assessment of the magnitude and duration of efficacy of injectable daxibotulinumtoxinA in adults with isolated cervical dystonia.

Methods

Study Design

Subjects could be enrolled in this phase 2 dose-escalation study if they were judged clinically likely to benefit from daxibotulinum-toxinA at a low dose (cohort 1), a medium dose (cohort 2), or a high dose (cohort 3). Enrollment in cohorts 2 and 3 could only proceed after 6-week safety data from the preceding cohort had been reviewed by an independent data monitoring committee. Subjects from cohorts 1 or 2 were eligible for reenrollment into cohort 3 if all inclusion criteria continued to be met.

The study was approved by the appropriate institutional review boards in accordance with applicable laws and conducted according to the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. All subjects signed informed consent.

Subjects

Subjects were eligible for inclusion in the study if they had a diagnosis of isolated cervical dystonia of at least moderate severity, defined as a total score on the Toronto Western Spasmodic Torticollis Rating Scale (TWSTRS)¹⁰ of at least 20, and a score on the TWSTRS severity subscale of at least 15. Subjects were also required to be 30–75 years of age. Medications for dystonia were required to remain at stable doses for at least 3 months prior to study entry and for the duration of the study. Exclusion criteria included

cervical dystonia with predominant retrocollis or anterocollis posture, cervical dystonia that was attributable to an underlying etiology (e.g., trauma or drug-induced dystonia), and the use of any BoNT product within the 6 months preceding the screening visit.

Treatment

DaxibotulinumtoxinA (Revance Therapeutics, Inc.) was supplied in vials containing 160 U of lyophilized product and was reconstituted and diluted to a 100 U/mL solution using 1.6 mL of sterile non-preserved 0.9% sodium chloride solution. Subjects received a single intramuscular treatment of daxibotulinumtoxinA, with cohort 1 receiving a maximal dose of 200 U, cohort 2 receiving 200–300 U, and cohort 3 receiving 300–450 U. The dose of daxibotulinumtoxinA used (within the range for each cohort), the number of muscles injected, the number of injection sites in each muscle, and the use of electromyography were at the discretion of the treating investigator.

Outcome Measures

Subjects were evaluated at baseline and weeks 2, 4, 6, 9, 12, 16, 20, and 24. The primary efficacy outcome was the change in TWSTRS-Total score from baseline to week 4. Secondary efficacy outcomes included the following:

- Change from baseline in TWSTRS-Total score at other time points besides week 4
- Change from baseline in score for each of the three component TWSTRS subscales (severity, disability, and pain)
- Percentage of treatment responders (defined as ≥ 20% reduction in TWSTRS-Total score post-treatment)
- Duration of effect (defined as the duration of retention of ≥ 20% of the improvement in TWSTRS-Total score achieved at week 4 or the time since injection until a subject expressed a need for treatment and the investiga-tor agreed that it was necessary [whichever was earlier])
- Clinical Global Impression of Change (CGIC) and Patient Global Impression of Change (PGIC) (9-point scales used by investigators and subjects, respectively, to rate the global response to treatment as: 4 [complete improvement/abolishment of dystonia symptoms], 3 [marked improvement], 2 [moderate improvement], 1 [slight improvement], 0 [no change], -1 [slight worsening], -2 [moderate worsening], -3 [marked worsening], or -4 [very marked worsening])
- Change in total score on the Cervical Dystonia Impact Profile (CDIP-58), a disease-specific patient-rated questionnaire that assesses the impact of cervical dystonia on health-related quality of life using a 100-point scale (0 = no impact, 100 = most impact). The CDIP-58 questionnaire is composed of eight subscales (head and neck, pain and discomfort, sleep, upper limb activities, walking, annoyance, mood, and psychosocial functioning)

TWSTRS scores were evaluated at all visits, the CGIC and PGIC were evaluated at all visits except baseline, and the CDIP-58 was evaluated at all visits except weeks 2 and 9.

Subjects without improvement in TWSTRS-Total score at week 4 were followed until week 9 and then discontinued the study. Subjects with improvement continued beyond week 9 for up to 24 weeks—but completed the study before week 24 once they no longer retained $\geq 20\%$ of the improvement in TWSTRS-Total score achieved at week 4, or if they expressed a need for treatment and the investigator agreed that it was necessary (whichever was earlier).

Subjects reported adverse events spontaneously and in response to specific querying about dysphagia and neck weakness. Adverse events were obtained at every study visit and by telephone interview at weeks 14, 18, and 22. The investigator assessed adverse events in terms of their relationship to the study drug and classified the severity of these events as mild (not noticeable to subject), moderate (may be of sufficient severity to make subject uncomfortable and influence daily activities, intervention may be needed), or severe (may cause severe discomfort, usually interferes with daily activities, subject may not be able to continue in study, intervention usually needed).

Statistical Analyses

The sample size was based on clinical considerations only and no formal sample size calculation was performed. As a result, the study was not powered to detect statistical significance and statistical analyses were largely descriptive and limited to calculating percentages, means, medians, and standard deviations. The analyses presented in this paper are based on observed data except that, if data for the primary endpoint (change from baseline in TWSTRS-Total score at week 4) were missing, values were imputed with data from the closest time point after week 4.

Results

The study was conducted at seven neurology clinics and one physical medicine and rehabilitation clinic in the US between September 2015 and April 2017. Three additional sites participated in screening, but did not have subjects who enrolled.

Subjects

A total of 34 subjects enrolled in the study, with three subjects enrolling into two different cohorts (one into cohorts 1 and 3, two into cohorts 2 and 3). This resulted in 37 sets of data being obtained—12 in cohort 1, 12 in cohort 2, and 13 in cohort 3 (Figure 1A). An additional 19 subjects failed screening requirements (17 did not meet the inclusion and exclusion criteria and two withdrew before enrollment).

In total, 33/37 (89%) subjects completed the study and four subjects withdrew (three due to the time and/or travel commitment required and one due to loss to follow-up). Among the 33 completing subjects, 25 were followed for 24 weeks (including three who should have completed at earlier visits but were protocol deviations as detailed in Figure 1A). Of the remaining eight subjects who completed before week 24, one had no improvement at week 4 (and therefore completed the study at week 9),

six required re-treatment between weeks 9 and 24, and one did not retain \geq 20% of the improvement in TWSTRS-Total score previously achieved at week 4.

There was overlap between cohorts in terms of the dose administered: eight subjects in cohort 1 and seven in cohort 2 received 200 U, and three subjects in cohort 2 and eight in cohort 3 received 300 U (Figure 1B). Therefore, for all evaluations, data were analyzed in two groups—a lower-dose group (100–240 U, n = 21) and a higher-dose group (300–450 U, n = 16; Figure 1B). All subjects were evaluated for efficacy (intention-to-treat analyses) and safety.

Demographics

Baseline demographics were generally similar between the two dose groups, except the higher-dose group had a relatively lower proportion of females (63% vs. 86%) and a longer median duration of cervical dystonia (7.2 vs. 4.8 years; Table 1). Subjects had a mean TWSTRS-Total score of 44.1 (Table 1).

Efficacy

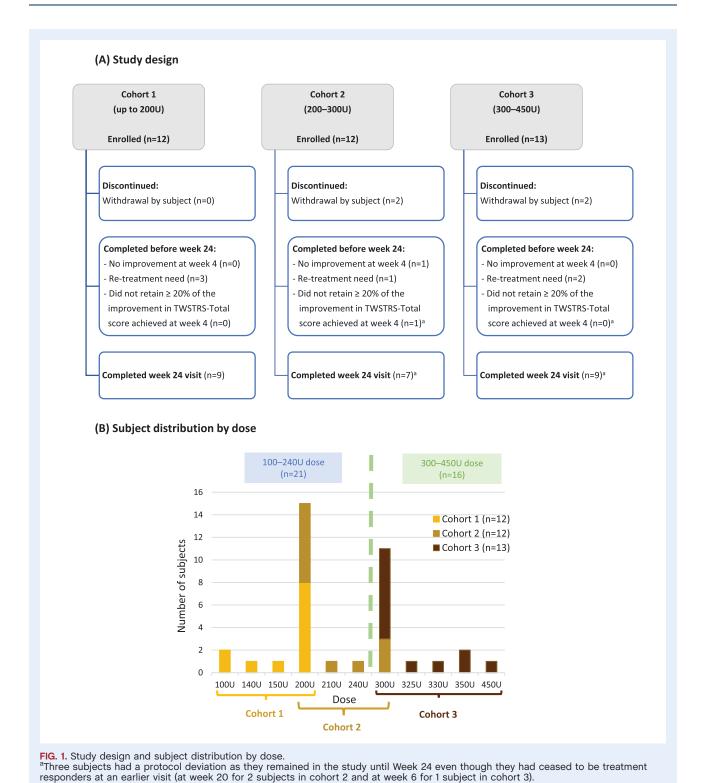
The reductions in TWSTRS-Total and subscale scores are shown in Figures 2A-2D. For clarity, the graphs depict only the results from the lower- and higher-dose groups; the overall group data (for both groups combined) are summarized below.

The mean change in TWSTRS-Total score at week 4 (the primary efficacy outcome) was -16.8 ± 9.51 in all subjects (Figure 2A). Converting the mean change in TWSTRS-Total score to a percentage change reveals that, in both dose groups combined, daxibotulinumtoxinA resulted in a 38% reduction in TWSTRS-Total score at week 4, a 50% reduction at week 6 (the peak reduction), a 42% reduction at week 12, and a 30% reduction at week 24 (Figure 2A).

At week 6, the overall reductions in mean TWSTRS severity, disability, and pain subscale scores were 47%, 50%, and 55%, respectively (Figures 2B, 2C, 2D). Peak reductions occurred at week 6 for severity, week 12 for disability (53%), and week 9 for pain (57%). Moreover, at week 24, the overall reductions in these subscale scores were 20%, 42%, and 39%, respectively.

The response rate (i.e., proportion of subjects achieving $\geq 20\%$ reduction from baseline in TWSTRS-Total score) across all subjects was 83% at week 4, peaked at 94% at week 6, and was still 68% at week 24 (Figure 3A). Among the 36 of 37 enrollees who had an improvement in TWSTRS-Total score at week 4, the median duration of response (i.e., the duration over which subjects retained $\geq 20\%$ of the improvement in TWSTRS-Total score that each had achieved at week 4) was 25.3 weeks (95% CI, 20.14 to 26.14 weeks; Figure 3B).

In one of the three reenrolled subjects, treatment response was last achieved at week 16 in the first enrollment and at week 9 in the second enrollment. In the other two reenrolled subjects, treatment response was last achieved at week 24 for both enrollments. During the second enrollment for one of these subjects, treatment response was transiently lost at week 12 (improvement from



baseline in TWSTRS score being 19.2%, so failing to meet the and 40% at week 24 (Supporting Table S1). I

baseline in TWSTRS score being 19.2%, so failing to meet the 20% threshold for treatment response), but the subject remained in the study until week 24 (a protocol deviation) and met the criteria for treatment response at weeks 16, 20, and 24 without further treatment.

CGIC ratings of improvement were attained by 97% of subjects at week 2, 97% at week 4, 94% at week 6, 63% at week 16,

and 40% at week 24 (Supporting Table S1). PGIC ratings of improvement were attained by 92% of subjects at week 2, 83% at week 4, 87% at week 6, 63% at week 16, and 60% at week 24 (Supporting Table S2). Subject ratings of the impact of cervical dystonia on health-related quality of life were improved at all evaluations, with the median CDIP-58 score reduced by at least 13 from week 4 to week 24 (Supporting Table S3).

TABLE 1 Baseline Demographics

	DaxibotulinumtoxinA dose		
	100-240 U (N = 21)	300-450 U (N = 16) ^a	100-450 U (N = 37) (Combined group)
Mean age ± SD, yrs	54 ± 10.4	58 ± 10.6	56 ± 10.4
[range]	[32-74]	[30-70]	[30-74]
Females, n (%)	18 (86%)	10 (63%)	28 (76%)
Caucasians, n (%)	18 (86%)	14 (88%)	32 (86%)
Duration of cervical dystonia, yrs			
Mean \pm SD	7.3 ± 8.09	7.9 ± 7.13	7.6 ± 7.59
Median [range]	4.8 [0.0-24.1]	7.2 [0.0-23.3]	4.9 [0.0-24.1]
Prior treatment with botulinum toxin, n	9 (43%)	8 (50%)	17 (46%)
Mean dose of daxibotulinumtoxinA \pm SD, U	188 ± 35.1	319 ± 39.3	244 ± 75.4
Mean TWSTRS score \pm SD			
Total score	44.4 ± 9.52	43.8 ± 10.20	44.1 ± 9.69
Severity subscore	20.5 ± 3.23	21.9 ± 3.89	21.1 ± 3.55
Disability subscore	12.6 ± 3.92	11.6 ± 4.51	12.2 ± 4.15
Pain subscore	11.3 ± 4.63	10.3 ± 4.55	10.8 ± 4.56
CDIP-58 total score			
Mean \pm SD	53.9 ± 18.76	49.7 ± 14.90	52.1 ± 17.10
Median [range]	51.4 [22.8-90.7]	55.9 [23.5-71.7]	54.8 [22.8-90.7]

Abbreviations: CDIP-58, Cervical Dystonia Impact Profile; SD, standard deviation; TWSTRS, Toronto Western Spasmodic Torticollis Rating Scale a Three were reenrolled from lower-dose group.

Safety and Tolerability

DaxibotulinumtoxinA appeared to be generally safe and well tolerated. There were no serious adverse events and no discontinuations due to adverse events. Treatment-related adverse events (i.e., adverse events that were possibly, probably, or definitely related to treatment) were generally transient and all were mild-to-moderate, except one that was considered severe (neck pain on days 10 and 11). The most commonly reported treatment-related adverse events were dysphagia (14%, mean duration 35 days), injection site erythema (8%, mean duration 8 days), injection site pain (5%, mean duration 13 days), muscular weakness (5%, mean duration 51 days), injection site bruising (5%, mean duration 22 days), and muscle tightness (5%, mean duration 32 days; Table 2).

The subjects with treatment-related dysphagia received 25–50 U daxibotulinumtoxinA unilaterally into the sternocleidomastoid muscle and 0–50 U into the levator scapulae muscle. The remaining subjects received up to 250 U in the sternocleidomastoid muscle and up to 80 U in the levator scapulae without developing treatment-related dysphagia. Among the 31 subjects injected into the sternocleidomastoid muscle, one subject received 250 U in this muscle (150 U on one side split between 2 injections, plus 100 U on the other side in a single injection), one subject received 90 U in this muscle (50 U on one side split between 5 injections, plus 40 U on the other side split between 4 injections), and the other 29 subjects received a dose of 20–50 U (as a single injection in 21 subjects and split across 2-to-4 injections in eight subjects, five of whom had injections on a single side and three of whom had injections in both the right and left muscles).

Discussion

The results of this study demonstrate that daxibotulinumtoxinA appears to be well tolerated at doses up to 450 U, and can achieve

clinically meaningful improvements in the signs and symptoms of cervical dystonia (as evaluated using TWSTRS scores)—not only at the primary end point of 4 weeks, but also from week 2 through week 24. In total, 36 of 37 subjects showed an improvement in TWSTRS-Total score at week 4 and the median duration of their response was more than 25 weeks. Overall, the peak therapeutic benefit occurred at week 6 when the TWSTRS-Total score was reduced by a mean of 21.3 points (a 50% reduction from the mean baseline score). In addition, much of the benefit was still maintained at week 24 when the mean reduction in TWSTRS-Total score was 12.8 points (a 30% reduction from the mean baseline score) and 68% (25/37) of the enrollees were still treatment responders (i.e., had \geq 20% reduction from baseline in TWSTRS-Total score).

Investigator and subject assessments of the global impression of change indicated that more than 90% of subjects had an improvement in their cervical dystonia following treatment with daxibotulinumtoxinA. Furthermore, 60% of subject ratings considered improvement was still present at week 24 compared with 40% of investigator ratings. The CDIP-58 data were consistent with the TWSTRS data in terms of both the magnitude and duration of treatment benefit and suggest that the overall impact of cervical dystonia was reduced.

The lower-dose and higher-dose groups both demonstrated efficacy and a prolonged duration of benefit. There was a greater reduction in mean TWSTRS pain score in the lower-dose group than the higher-dose group (Figure 2D), and this could be partly attributable to the lower-dose group having relatively higher pain scores at baseline (11.3 vs. 10.3). The three subjects who reenrolled had lower baseline TWSTRS pain scores at their second enrollment (into the higher-dose group) compared with their first enrollment (into the lower-dose group) and it may be that some of the effect of daxibotulinumtoxinA on their pain persisted when

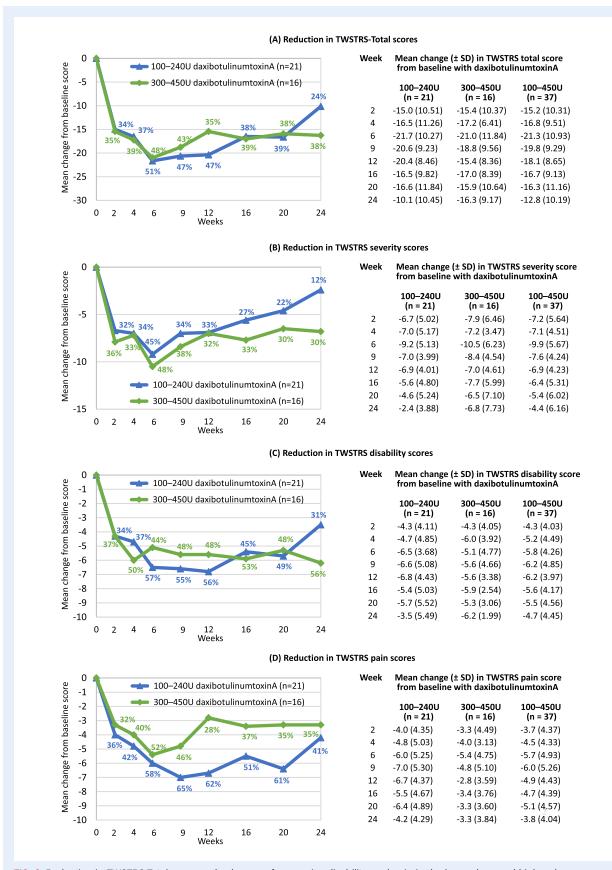


FIG. 2. Reduction in TWSTRS-Total score and subscores for severity, disability, and pain in the lower-dose and higher-dose groups.

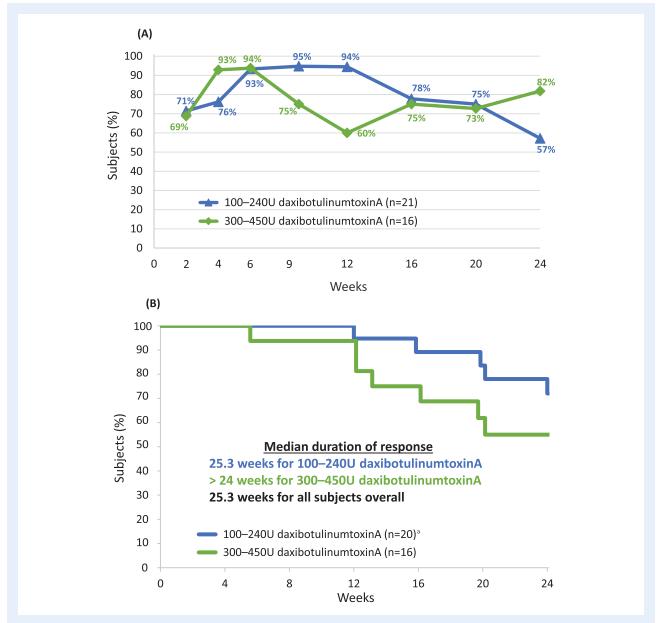


FIG. 3. Response rate and duration of response. (A) Subjects achieving response (at least 20% improvement from baseline in TWSTRS-Total score); (B) Subjects retaining at least 20% of the improvement in TWSTRS-Total score achieved at week 4 (among subjects with improvement at week 4). Withdrawals due to need for re-treatment are considered events. One subject was excluded from analysis as their TWSTRS score was not improved at week 4

they enrolled the second time. However, given the small sample size, the between-group variability, and the open-label design, it is not possible to draw any conclusions regarding dose-response effects.

The mean 16.8-point (38%) reduction in TWSTRS-Total score at week 4 is greater than that reported in trials with other BoNTs. For example, a mean reduction in TWSTRS-Total score of 9.9 has been reported for incobotulinumtoxinA 120 U, ¹² 10.9 for incobotulinumtoxinA 240 U, ¹² 9.3 for botulinum toxin type B 5,000 U, ¹³ 11.7 for botulinum toxin type B 10,000 U, ¹³ 9.9 for abobotulinumtoxinA 500 U, ¹⁴ and a least squares mean reduction of approximately 14 for abobotulinumtoxinA 500 U. ¹⁵ However, these previous studies were larger, double blind, and placebo

controlled, so these differences may not be meaningful. Previous studies with other BoNTs have used a variety of different definitions for response rates^{14–16} and duration of response^{14,17,18} (or have not reported them at all) and so similar comparisons are not so feasible for these outcome measures. In terms of reductions in CDIP-58 score, the mean reductions of 15.0 in this study at week 4 and 12.6 at week 24 are similar to those in previous trials with other BoNTs at week 4. ^{15,19}

DaxibotulinumtoxinA appeared to be generally safe and well tolerated, with no dose-related increase in the incidence of treatment-related adverse events. In common with other BoNTs, dysphagia was the most common adverse event and its incidence in this trial (14% related to treatment, 16% regardless of

TABLE 2 Incidence of Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events Considered at Least Possibly Related to Treatment

Adverse event	Subjects (%)			
Auverse event	100–240 U daxibotulinumtoxinA (N = 21)	300-450 U daxibotulinumtoxinA (N = 16)	100-450 U daxibotulinumtoxinA (N = 37) (Combined group)	
Dysphagia	3 (14%) [mild]	2 (13%) [mild]	5 (14%) ^a	
Injection site erythema	2 (10%) [mild]	1 (6%) [mild]	3 (8%)	
Injection site pain	1 (5%) [moderate]	1 (6%) [mild]	2 (5%)	
Muscular weakness	2 (10%) [1 mild, 1 moderate]	-	2 (5%)	
Injection site bruising	2 (10%) [mild]	-	2 (5%)	
Muscle tightness	1 (5%) [mild]	1 (5%) [mild]	2 (5%) ^b	
Neck pain	1 (5%) [severe]	-	1 (3%)	
Muscle spasms	1 (5%) [moderate]	-	1 (3%)	
Trismus	1 (5%) [moderate]	-	1 (3%)	
Fatigue	-	1 (5%) [mild]	1 (3%)	
Nausea	-	1 (5%) [mild]	1 (3%)	
Asthenia	-	1 (5%) [mild]	1 (3%)	

^aOne reenrolled subject reported treatment-emergent dysphagia in both cohorts.

relationship to treatment) appears in the same range as in studies with other BoNT type A products already approved to treat cervical dystonia (7–16% related to treatment, 7–19% regardless of relationship to treatment). ^{12,15,20}

A significant limitation of the study was its small size and open-label design. In addition, reenrolling three subjects into a second cohort could have introduced a selection bias toward good efficacy and tolerability. However, the results of the study suggest that daxibotulinumtoxinA can reduce the clinical manifestations of cervical dystonia for potentially an extended period of time relative to other currently available BoNTs, and is generally well tolerated across a range of doses. The results presented here provide strong evidence to support a large randomized, double-blind, comparative study to further evaluate the magnitude and duration of clinical response to daxibotulinumtoxinA in cervical dystonia.

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The views expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States government.

Author Roles

1. Research Project: A. Conception, B. Organization, C. Execution; 2. Statistical Analysis: A. Design, B. Execution, C. Review and Critique; 3. Manuscript Preparation: A. Writing the First Draft, B. Review and Critique.

J.J.: 1C, 3B D.T.: 1C, 3B A.P.: 1C, 3B A.B.: 1C, 3B M.E.: 1C, 3B R.R.: 3B C.O.: 3B D.S.: 3B

C.C.: 1A, 1C, 3B

Disclosures

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bOne reenrolled subject reported treatment-emergent muscle tightness in both cohorts.

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Supporting Information

Supporting information may be found in the online version of this article.

Table S1. Subjects showing an improvement rating on the Clinical Global Impression of Change

Table S2. Subjects showing an improvement rating on the Patient Global Impression of Change

Table S3. Change from baseline in Cervical Dystonia Impact Profile (CDIP-58) total score, which assesses subject ratings of impact of cervical dystonia on health-related quality of life on a score from 0 (no impact) to 100 (most impact)