



Special delivery

We speak to **Anna Baker** about her experience with the 3Dose Unit Dose Injector for botulinum toxin delivery

Botulinum toxin injections are one of the staple treatments in most aesthetic practices and the injection technique associated with treatment has remained largely unchanged over the last decade.

As the use of botulinum toxin treatments becomes more and more popular, treatment outcomes are more critically analysed. As such, accurate injection placement and dosing to ensure efficacy is an increasingly important aspect of treatment as is patient comfort.

We spoke to aesthetic nurse practitioner Anna Baker about her experience with the 3Dose Unit Dose Injector (TSK).

AESTHETIC MEDICINE: WHAT LED YOU TO USE THE 3DOSE UNIT DOSE INJECTOR?

Anna Baker: One of the most important things to consider when administering botulinum toxin treatments is the use of an appropriate syringe and needle system that is easy to use, delivers accurate doses, is comfortable for the patient and reduces toxin wastage. At present botulinum toxin injections are thought to be 10-20% inaccurate in dosing.

The 3Dose Unit Dose Injector is compatible with all three FDA-approved botulinum brands available in Europe and the USA. Conventional syringes used in practice can be >

INJECTION DEVICES

highly user dependent, affecting not only the accuracy of the dosing but the comfort and tolerability of injection for the patient.

AM: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING THE 3DOSE UNIT DOSE INJECTOR?

AB: The syringe design has no “dead space” and is best used in combination with the Invisible Needle (14% thinner than 33G) to provide an almost painless injection, whilst potentially conserving up to 0.08mls of product, due to the Low Dead Space needle hub. Existing available syringes may incur a loss of up to 0.85mls of product.

The 3Dose Unit Dose Injector also has an ergonomically designed plunger and adjustable clicker system, which allows you to administer at a dose of 0.0125, 0.025ml, or 0.05ml using the green 3DOSE or 0.01ml, 0.02ml or 0.04ml using the orange 3DOSE, dependent upon your choice of toxin and dilution.

Each “click” delivers a consistently precise dose, which allows you to focus entirely on the accurate placement of the needle and position the delivery accurately without having to monitor the position of the syringe plunger.

The injector also displays the available units remaining at the reconstituted dilution and there is no risk of any leakage or the needle becoming disengaged during the procedure due to a specific designed fit between a secure luer lock and the connector.

From the clinician’s perspective there is a feeling of security that the treatment is being performed meticulously as the device allows for consistent dosing for subsequent treatments and ultimately, reproducible results.

The number of treatment “clicks” remaining allows you to quickly calculate if there is adequate toxin in the syringe to complete the treatment. Dosing volumes can quickly be changed during treatment and the remaining “clicks” for the desired volume is immediately visualised (volumes of 0.0125/0.025/0.05 or 0.01/0.02/0.04 mls).

This is particularly useful when contouring the lower aspect of the face with toxin for example as this not only requires an accurate knowledge of the anatomy but also

a thorough analysis of the area to precisely place product to the target muscle. The muscles of the lower face hold no forgiveness for errors in placement of toxin and volumes of less than 0.1ml are challenging to accurately administer using the current conventional devices. The 3Dose injectors instill peace of mind through unrivalled accuracy with positive patient feedback to reflect this.

AM: IS IT EASY TO PREPARE THE DEVICE FOR USE?

AB: Preparing the device for use is relatively straight-forward – the clinician’s choice of toxin is reconstituted in line with the aseptic protocol at their practising institution.

Once reconstituted the toxin is drawn up into the injector with the plunger in the free moving position, the desired unit setting is then selected and the sharp injection needle of choice may be connected, ready for injection.

The injector is provided in a sterile package.

A separate needle will need to be used to mix and draw up the toxin solution. Once drawn up the injection needle, like the Invisible Needle, is mounted on to the syringe and the treatment can proceed.

AM: DOES IT MAKE THE TREATMENT MORE COMFORTABLE FOR PATIENTS?

AB: In my experience, patients have reported feeling a significant reduction in pain from the needle compared to that previously used (29G and 30G needles).

The Invisible Needle by TSK is 14% thinner than 33G needles, patients who have received toxin injections at other establishments frequently comment on the “painless” experience of undergoing treatment using the invisible needle, particularly around the peri-ocular and peri-oral region.

AM: DOESN'T THIS ADD TO THE COST?

AB: Although it may appear to be slightly more expensive (£3.50) per treatment – the overall time saving, reduced toxin wastage, ease and accuracy of treatment and patient satisfaction far outweigh this cost. **AM**

Patients have reported feeling a significant reduction in pain from the needle compared to that previously used (29G and 30G needles)



>> **Anna Baker** is an experienced Registered Nurse and Independent Nurse Prescriber. She is a member of the Royal College of Nursing, The Association of Nurse Prescribers, The British Association of Cosmetic Nurses, the Private Independent Aesthetic Practices Association, the British Dermatological Nursing Group, The Anatomical Society, The British Association of Clinical Anatomists and the United Kingdom Botulinum Toxin Group for Aesthetics (UKBTGA). Anna has a post graduate certificate in Applied Clinical Anatomy, specialising in head and neck anatomy. Anna works alongside Consultant Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeon Mr Dalvi Humzah and is the coordinator and assistant tutor to Dalvi Humzah Aesthetic Training