Objective: Intramuscularly administered OnabotulinumtoxinA is an effective treatment for a variety of movement disorders. Severe bruxism, which can generate discomfort, pain, tongue laceration and tooth fragmentation, is a frequent complication of anoxic brain injury. Severe bruxism is usually amenable to medical treatment. We report successful symptomatic treatment of severe bruxism with OnabotulinumtoxinA in four patients with anoxic brain injury.

Background: Four patients with severe bruxism secondary to post anoxic brain injury were seen on the inpatient and/or outpatient service at Henry Ford Health System between November 2003 and August 2011 and treated with OnabotulinumtoxinA.

Design/Methods: All four patients were females, three were African American and one Caucasian. Ages ranged from twenty three to sixty three years old. All four patients received OnabotulinumtoxinA injection to the bilateral masseter and/or temporalis muscles (total of 50-100 units were injected during each visit). Two of the four patients received multiple injections separated by two weeks to 3 months due to severity of the symptoms.

Results: All four patients responded positively to the injections. No side effects were reported in any of the studied patients.

Conclusions: OnabotulinumtoxinA injections are an efficacious and valuable treatment for patients with severe bruxism post anoxic brain injury.

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