

1 Title page
2 A Multicentre, Prospective, Randomized, Double-Blind Study To Measure the Treatment
3 effectiveness of Abobotulinum A (BTXA) among Women with Refractory interstitial
4 cystitis/bladder pain syndrome.

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21 Manning J; Conceived study design, made ethics applications and extensions, arranged
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27 Rosamilia A; enrolled subjects, very extensively reviewed drafts of paper

28

29 Abstract

30

31 Introduction;

32 To determine if Abobotulinumtoxin A (AboBTXA) is an effective treatment for Interstitial
33 Cystitis/Bladder Pain Syndrome.

34 Methods;

35 54 women with severe, refractory IC were randomised from 3 referral centres.

36 Double blind design with random allocation to treatment with hydrodistension and injection of
37 normal saline, or hydrodistension and injection of AboBTXA.

38 Main Outcome measures;

39 The O'Leary Sant questionnaire consists of the problem (OLS PI) and symptom index (OLS PI)
40 scores and the bladder diary data were compared between AboBTXA and control subjects at
41 baseline and at 3 month follow-up. Measurements were made beyond 3 months, but no further
42 randomized comparison was possible due to the ability of non responsive patients in either
43 group to have AboBTX treatment.

44 Results;

45 Complete data was available in 50 subjects and in both groups, the OLS questionnaires showed
46 improvement at 3 months. Only the OLS PI was improved in the BTXA group ($p=0.04$). At 3
47 months, no difference was found in the OLS SI or the total OLS score. Twelve subjects had UTI
48 treated during the follow-up period which confounded the results. In the 38 subjects without
49 UTI there was improvement in the total OLS score ($p=0.02$), the OLS PI (0.08) and the OLS SI
50 ($p=0.008$) for the Abo BTXA group at 3 months. Only 5 AboBTXA compared with 2 control
51 subjects had a 50% reduction of their OLS score.

52 Conclusions

53 For chronic refractory IC/BPS patients, AboBTXA was associated with no overall improvement
54 in total OLS score although significant benefit was noted in a small number of patients. The
55 absence of post treatment UTI was associated with a better response to AboBTXA.

56

57

58 f. Keywords

59 Abobotulinum toxin, Botulinum toxin A, Hydrodistension, Interstitial cystitis, Prospective,
60 Bladder pain syndrome

61

62 Brief Summary

63 AboBotulinum toxin was not shown to be effective for the treatment of refractory interstitial
64 cystitis.

65

66 Abbreviations

67 OnaBTXA- onabotulinumA toxin (Botox®)

68 AboBTXA- abobotulinumA toxin (Dysport®)

69 UTI- urinary tract infection

70 IC/BPS interstitial cystitis bladder pain syndrome

71 OLS - O'Leary Sant questionnaire score

72 BCG- BacilleCalmette Guerin

73

74 **Introduction**

75 Preliminary evidence suggested that Botulinum toxin A (BTXA) may be effective for the
76 treatment of interstitial cystitis/bladder pain syndrome (IC/BPS) when injected into the bladder
77 wall (1-5).

78 In 2005, El-Bahnasy et al reported results of a prospective study of 36 women with refractory
79 IC/PBS randomised to have either BCG weekly for 5 weeks, or injection of 300 U of
80 Onabotulinumtoxin (Botox®). Significant improvement was noted in the domains of daytime
81 frequency, nocturia, pelvic pain, urgency and dysuria among women randomized to treatment
82 with BTXA . No significant difference in complications between groups, in particular voiding
83 dysfunction, was noted (6).

84 Several mechanisms for the possible effectiveness of BTXA in the treatment of bladder pain
85 have been suggested. BTXA may inhibit the release of neuropeptides such as Substance P,
86 calcitonin gene related peptide and glutamate which are all involved in pain transmission from
87 either dorsal root ganglion neurones, sensory afferent nerves, and/ or urothelial cells. It is
88 speculated that this could happen in a similar way to that in which BTXA inhibits acetylcholine
89 release from motor nerve terminals by cleavage of snap proteins.

90

91 The aim of this study was to determine using a prospective randomised double blind design,
92 whether hydrodistension with injection of BTXA into the bladder wall could significantly
93 improve symptoms for women with chronic refractory IC/BPS when compared to treatment
94 with hydrodistension and saline injection

95

96 Materials and Methods

97 From January 2004 until February 2009, 54 female subjects with longstanding, refractory IC/PBS were
98 recruited from urogynecology clinics at 3 centres. They were followed up for at least a further 2 years.
99 Subjects all met the NIDDK (7) criteria in use at that time, with the majority having had multiple prior
100 therapies. Refractory was defined as those who had failed 2 or more recognized treatments.
101 Subjects were over 18 years of age. Exclusion criteria included a known history of recurrent urinary
102 tract infection (UTI), current pregnancy, bladder malignancy, steroid use, and voiding difficulty.
103 All subjects completed a three day bladder diary and baseline questionnaires. The primary
104 outcome measure was the O'Leary Sant questionnaire score (OLS) which is composed of 2
105 parts; the OLS Symptom Index (OLS SI) and the OLS Problem index (OLS PI); the latter is similar
106 to a bother score;"how much has this been a problem for you ?". The 4 questions relate to
107 daytime frequency; nocturia; the need to urinate with little warning and question 4 which
108 addresses bladder pain. Each question in the OLS SI is scored 0 for "not at all" to 5 for "usually
109 or almost always" giving a maximum score of 20; each question in the OLS PI is scored 0 for "no
110 problem" to 4 for "big problem" giving a maximum score of 16. The secondary outcome
111 measures were frequency and nocturia as measured by bladder diary and complications such as
112 voiding difficulty. Subjects were randomised to receive, under general anaesthetic, either a 4
113 minute hydrodistension with injection of 30 mls of normal saline into the bladder wall, or
114 hydrodistension with injection of 500 Units of Abobotulinumtoxin (AboBTXA) diluted in 30 mls
115 of normal saline. Both were injected through a 30 cm Bard 23 gauge needle at 30 sites in 1 ml
116 aliquots, suburothelially sparing the trigone and avoiding ureters. A bladder biopsy was
117 obtained if not already available. Peri-operative antibiotic prophylaxis was utilised.

118

119 Urodynamic studies were performed upon recruitment if not available. A free urinary flow rate
120 with post void residual was performed at 1 week post treatment and repeated if elevated.
121 Subjects and treating doctors were blinded to initial treatment allocation. Drug was prepared in
122 the hospital pharmacy according to a series of 3 separate computer generated randomization
123 numbers for each centre, provided by the mathematics department and held confidentially by
124 pharmacy. De-identified syringes were delivered to theatre. One ampoule of Dysport® 500U is
125 variably estimated to be equivalent to approximately 2 to 2 and ½ ampoules of Allergan® Botox
126 100U (8,9). Four subjects from 1 centre were randomised and initially received only 200 U of
127 AboBTXA (assumed equivalent to 100U of Botox®).

128

129 Subjects with no improvement after initial treatment had access to AboBTXA treatment if they
130 wished, at a minimum of 3 months after initial treatment as indicated in the flow chart (Figure
131 1). Patients and doctors remained blinded to their original treatment allocation. Approval for
132 the study was obtained from the Research and Ethics Committees of all 3 hospitals.

133

134 Statistical methods

135 A formal power calculation was not performed prior to the study. The sample size of 50 was
136 chosen to be confident of detecting a 15 % difference in the total O’Leary Sant score between
137 AboBTXA and control groups if present. This was based on the 1 available randomized study at
138 the time which involved 36 refractory subjects. In this study a difference of 16% in global scores
139 was demonstrated when OnaBTXA was compared with BCG injection at 4 weeks and had a 88%
140 excellent response rate (6).

141

142 Repeated measures ANOVA was used to test if the BTXA subjects showed improvement in OLS
143 scores and the significance of mean differences at 3 months for each group was determined
144 using paired t test and 95% confidence intervals. SPSS (V19) was used for analysis and statistical
145 significance was set at 0.05 level. Repeated measures ANOVA was used to check for
146 confounding factors.

147 Measurements continued beyond 3 months, however, further randomized statistical
148 comparisons were not possible as the majority of subjects chose to take up the offer of active
149 AboBTXA injection at or beyond 3 months.

150 Whether individual subjects had received a benefit was also assessed using a Reliable Change
151 index (RC) to identify those with a statistically significant reduction in scores (10, 11). A clinically
152 significant improvement was defined as a 50% or more reduction in baseline score. This analysis
153 examines whether an individual had a statistically significant change in their score. An interim
154 analysis was performed after enrolment of 20 subjects to exclude adverse effects after one
155 subject reported a marked increase in pain and voiding difficulty.

156

157 Results

158 Fifty four subjects were recruited. One subject was removed prior to randomisation due to a
159 diagnosis of bladder cancer. The mean age was 54 years for the BTXA group and 53 years for
160 the control group; mean parity was 2 for both groups. There was also no difference in BMI with
161 a mean of 27.5 for the BTXA group and 26.6 for the control group. This was a refractory group
162 of IC patients for example, subjects who went on to have AboBTXA treatment had an average of

163 7 past treatments for IC/BPS (SD 4.6) and the control subjects had an average number of 4 prior
164 treatments. These included but were not limited to; hydrodistension (100% vs 88%), bladder
165 diathermy (25% vs 50%), bladder instillations (92% vs 75%), Tricyclic antidepressants (75% vs
166 50%), Elmiron (75% vs 50%), and Gabapentin or Pregabalin (58% vs 25%) for the AboBTXA and
167 control groups, respectively.

168 In addition, the average duration of symptoms for the AboBTXA group was 16 years (SD 9.4)
169 and for control subjects 11 years (SD 4.1). Overall, the mean maximum capacity under
170 anaesthesia was 491 ml (SD 243). The subjects reported multiple other pain syndromes, but
171 treatment allocation and OLS scores were not affected by the presence of these co-morbidities.

172
173 The initial diary data analysis excluded 2 AboBTXA subjects without a complete bladder diary.
174 Overall, the average number of voids per day was 13 and by night was 3. The mean maximum
175 functional bladder capacity was 238 mls and mean bladder capacity was 119 mls. Initial
176 urodynamic test results were available for all women. The baseline urodynamic data for the
177 two populations did not differ significantly; the post void residual was not elevated at a mean of
178 18 ml. First sensation occurred at a mean value of 97 mls and cystometric capacity occurred at
179 a mean value of 178 mls. There were 3 subjects with a detrusor pressure rise over 15 cm water
180 at capacity; no subjects showed a systolic contraction pattern. The mean post void residual
181 urine volume 1 week after initial treatment was 27mls for the control group and 69 mls for the
182 AboBTXA treatment group (NS, $p=0.125$). Two of the AboBTXA subjects recorded a residual
183 volume over 200mls and in one subject this persisted for 4 weeks.

184

185 The OLS problem index (OLS PI) and the OLS symptom index (OLS SI) scores showed significant
186 improvement for both control and BTXA subjects at 6 weeks and 3 months. The OLS PI showed
187 a significantly greater improvement at 3 months in the BTXA group ($p=0.04$). However there
188 was no improvement in the total OLS score or the OLS SI.

189 From the mixed model analysis, the estimated means for baseline and 3 months for the control
190 group were 27.8 and 24.9, (change score 2.85, 95% CI [-0.23, 5.91]) and for the AboBTXA group
191 they were 26.5 and 21.2 (change score 5.39, 95% CI [2.30, 8.45]). The difference in total scores
192 for the AboBTXA and control groups between baseline and 3 months was not significant at
193 2.52, 95% CI [-1.8, 6.9], $P=0.25$.

194 A total of 12 subjects had proven UTI detected and treated at some time after cystoscopy and
195 injection; 5 in the control and 7 in the AboBTXA group despite a baseline negative urine culture
196 and peri-operative antibiotic prophylaxis. The presence of UTI was noted to be a confounding
197 factor. If analysis was performed without the UTI subjects as shown in Table 2, there was an
198 overall improvement in the BTXA group in all measurements including the total OLS score
199 ($p=0.02$), the OLS SI (0.008), the OLS PI ($p=0.08$) and question 4 of OLS PI addressing the
200 problem of bladder pain ($p=0.02$).

201 Only 2 of the control group and 5 of the AboBTXA group had a greater than 50% reduction in
202 the OLS score. Overall, the AboBTXA group had a 20% greater improvement than the control
203 group but this was not significant ($P=0.10$). Excluding the subjects with UTI led to significantly
204 better response in the AboBTXA group (5/17, 29%) compared to the control group (0/19, 0%,
205 $P=.02$, Fishers Exact test).

206

207 Thirty nine subjects had cold cup bladder biopsy results available. The histology was considered
208 abnormal if there was denudation of surface mucosa or inflammatory infiltrate of macrophages
209 in the urothelium and / or detrusor layer, although detrusor muscle was not always present in
210 the specimen (12). Detrusor mastocytosis was not measured. There was no difference in the
211 primary outcome measures among the 28 out of 39 who showed an abnormal biopsy result
212 compared with those who did not.

213

214 Twenty one of the 27 (78%) control subjects requested AboBTXA treatment at or after 3
215 months compared with 16 of the 26 (62%) of the initial AboBTXA subjects; this was not a
216 significant difference ($P=0.16$). Subjects and doctors remained blinded to their original
217 allocation. Following this, 9 women (24 %) have requested ongoing treatment. Among these
218 women, study follow up at the time of writing ranged from 0.5 to 72 months (mean 9.1, SD
219 13.5). These 9 subjects include 7 of the 27 (26%) original control subjects and 2 of the 26 (8%)
220 original AboBTXA group, however this comparison did not reach significance ($P=0.08$). One
221 subject who remained blinded reported an initial treatment benefit with AboBTXA but failure
222 with a 2nd treatment. None of these 9 subjects have had UTI identified.

223 There was no significant difference between the three participating hospitals ($P=0.45$).

224 The duration of benefit from 1 or multiple AboBTXA treatments, when it occurred has varied
225 from 7 to 57 months.

226

227 .

228 Discussion

229 In this study, intravesical injection of AboBTXA was not associated with overall improvement in
230 the total OLS score in women with refractory IC/BPS at 3 months albeit an improvement was
231 seen in the OLS problem index (OLS PI). However when a statistical analysis of individuals'
232 change scores was employed, some benefit was observed of the order of 20 % in the OLS score
233 in the AboBTXA compared to the control group which rose to 29% after UTI was excluded.

234 The randomized study by Kuo et al reported benefit at 3 months using both a pain visual
235 analogue and the OLS questionnaire (13). It is of interest that the same group recently reported
236 no benefit from onaBTXA in a group of patients with ulcer IC which is in agreement with the
237 minimal overall benefit seen in this study (14). El-Bahnasy (6) demonstrated benefit using a
238 pain visual analogue scale. Davies et al found no benefit in a study of 13 subjects with doses of
239 OnaBTXA between 100-300U and 3 of their subjects had urinary retention and exacerbation of
240 their pain (15).

241 In El-Bahnasy's study there was an unusually high and prolonged overall response rate to
242 treatment with 69% and 88% of those receiving BCG and OnaBTXA respectively still reporting
243 excellent response at nearly 2 years (6). It should be noted that this high response rate to
244 intravesical BCG treatment is far greater than the 11% response for BCG treatment noted by
245 Sairanen (16) so perhaps the study population in El-Bahnassy's trial responded favourably to all
246 treatment modalities.

247 The subjects recruited for the studies by El-Bahnassy and Kuo were required to have had
248 symptoms for at least 6 months (6,13). This study has recruited a much more refractory group
249 with very long duration of symptoms, multiple failed treatments, mean maximum cystometric

250 capacity of 178 mls and often an abnormal bladder biopsy which corresponds to the ulcer
251 group in Lee et al who also responded poorly.(14)

252 UTI was diagnosed using traditional Kass criteria and was common with no difference between
253 the AboBTXA or control groups. The common occurrence of UTI has been noted elsewhere
254 (17), furthermore, antibiotic prophylaxis is not always effective at preventing UTI during follow
255 up. These subjects were not excluded from analysis as the UTI occurred post randomization and
256 treatment. It is difficult to speculate upon the reason for the apparent impact of UTI on
257 response to treatment. The control subjects with UTI had a greater improvement in scores than
258 the BTX group and this confounded the results. Hence, when the analysis was performed
259 excluding the UTI subjects, there was significantly greater improvement in the OLS scores for
260 the BTXA group. It does suggest that there may be a role for infection in the pathogenesis or
261 response to treatment in this group of patients.

262 This study was pragmatic in design and hydrodistension was offered to both groups. This same
263 approach has been utilized by other centres (13). This was required by all institutional ethics
264 committees involved in the study. Hydrodistension has previously been demonstrated to have
265 an independent beneficial effect over a 3 month period with concomitant reduced secretion of
266 nerve growth factor (18). However, hydrodistension treatment to both groups did not dilute
267 our ability to detect benefit due to AboBTXA treatment alone as no benefit was noted among
268 the hydrodistension and saline injection treatment group.

269 A weakness of this study is the lack of formal power calculation as at the commencement of the
270 study,limited data was available;it consisted of the El-Bahnasy paper showing an 88% excellent
271 response rate to BTXA. This study is likely to be underpowered for a greater than 50%

272 improvement. Indeed, the recruitment time of this refractory group of IC/BPS was very long
273 even with this modest sample size of fifty. However, the refractory nature of the condition was
274 thought to be ethically justifiable in order to balance the cost and potential morbidity of BTXA
275 such as urinary retention.

276 The low incidence of voiding difficulty in this study compares favourably and contrasts with the
277 42% incidence of voiding difficulty reported after 500 U AboBTXA was used for refractory
278 idiopathic detrusor overactivity (19). In our study, residual urine volumes were significantly
279 raised in the AboBTXA group compared with the control group; however only one of the
280 subjects had worsening pain and prolonged voiding difficulty over a 4 week period. This was
281 despite the frequent finding of reduced flow rates on the pre treatment assessment.

282 Dosage is unlikely to have been an issue, as previous studies have demonstrated benefit using
283 widely differing dosages.

284 Nine (24%) of the subjects have requested a 2nd (7 of the original control group) or 3rd (2 of the
285 original BTXA group) ongoing treatment over 2 years following their initial randomization
286 treatment. While the drug was provided free of charge, this does suggest some benefit for this
287 subset of patients. AboBTXA may be an effective treatment for a small minority of refractory
288 subjects. While women with refractory IC/BPS remain one of the most difficult patient groups
289 to treat, it could be argued that any safe therapy with even limited effectiveness is worth
290 consideration.

291

292 **Conclusion**

293 For chronic refractory IC/BPS patients, there was no overall improvement in the mean OLS
294 score after injection of abobotulinum toxin and hydrodistension versus saline injection with
295 hydrodistension. The subgroup with no urinary tract infection had significant benefit in all OLS
296 scores. This study found that intravesical injection of AboBTXA was an effective treatment in
297 halving the OLS score for a only a small minority of women with refractory IC/BPS.
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377 Figure 1; Flow chart

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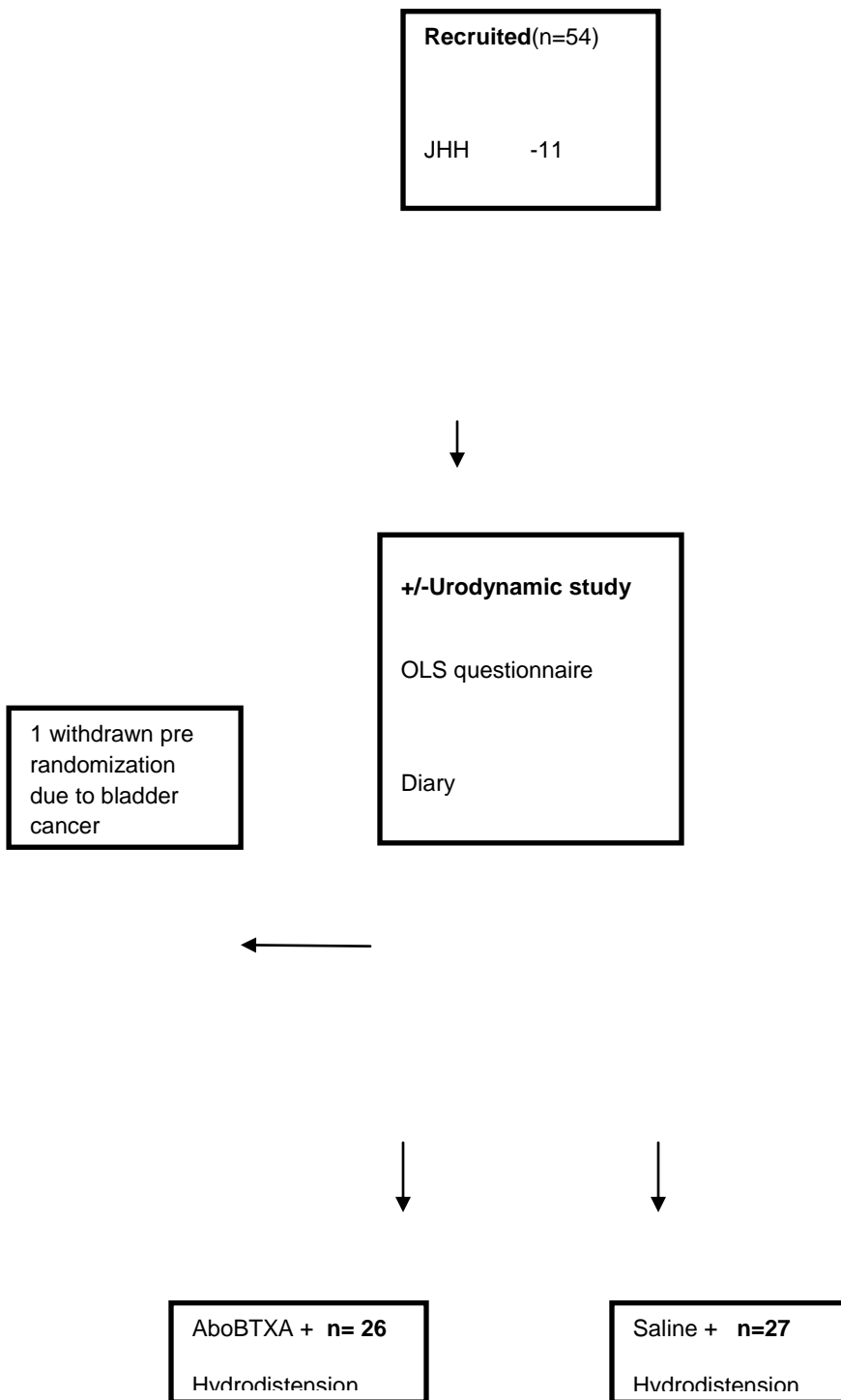
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n= 50
followup at;
1 wk
6 wk
3 monthly

7 with UTI

5 with UTI

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Offer of further treatment with AboBTXA after 3 months

16/26 (62%) had AboBTXA

21/27(78%) had AboBTXA

425
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Further AboBTXA offer

430

2/26 (8%) had further (3rd)Abo BTXA

7/27 (26%) had further (2nd)AboBTXA

432 Table 1; Treatment outcome for subjects receiving BTXA+ hydrodistension versus saline +
 433 hydrodistension at baseline and 3 months.

434

	Treatment allocation	Baseline mean (SD) or [95% CI if available]	3 months post treatment mean (SD) or [if available 95%CI]	Mean difference and 95% CI	p
Voids/day	AboBTXA	13.5 (7.1)	10.4 (5.8)	3.2 [1.1-5.3]	0.25
	Control	12.5 (5.4)	11.4 (4.4)	1.5 [-0.7- 3.6]	
Voids/night	AboBTXA	3.2 (1.6)	3.3 (2.2)	0.13 [-0.8-1.1]	0.85
	Control	3.2 (2.6)	2.3 (1.7)	0.25 [10.6-1.1]	
Average capacity (mls)	AboBTXA	120 (84)	157 (94)	-29.1 [-73.0-14.8]	0.31
	Control	118 (52)	119 (68)	-5.1 [-28.1-17.8]	
Maximum Capacity (mls)	AboBTXA	242 (166)	273 (152)	19.6 [-2.7-41.8]	0.27
	Control	233 (96)	210 (84)	-18.0 [-85.4-49.5]	
OLS problem Index	AboBTXA	13.6 [CI 12.5-14.6]	9.9 [8.3-11.6]	3.64 [1.58-5.70]	0.04
	Control	13.7 [CI 12.7-14.9]	12.8 [11.0-14.3]	1.00 [-0.44- 2.44]	
OLS symptom Index	AboBTXA	13.2 [CI 12.1-14.2]	10.5 [8.7-12.3]	2.7 [0.7-4.6]	0.30
	Control	13.9 [CI 12.9-15.1]	12.3 [10.6-14.3]	3.6 [1.6-5.7]	
OLS Q 4 pain	AboBTXA	3.6 [CI 3.3-4.0]	2.8 [2.3-3.7]	0.8 [0.2-1.2]	0.09
	Control	3.6 [CI 3.2-4.0]	3.4 [2.9-4.0]	0.17 [-2.4-0.6]	
Total OLS score	AboBTXA	26.7 [CI 24.7-28.7]	20.4 [17.1-23.7]	3.7 [-0.34-7.6]	0.12
	Control	27.8 [CI 25.8-30.0]	25.3 [21.9-28.8]	-1.5 [-0.2-2.2]	

435

436

437 TABLE 2 ;

438 **treatment outcome for subjects without UTI receiving BTXA+ hydrodistension vs saline +**
 439 **hydrodistension at baseline and at 3 months**

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Without UTI (n=38)	Treatment	Baseline score [95% CI]	3 months score [95% CI]	Mean Difference (pre-post) and [95% CI]	P
OLS score	Abo BTXA	26.9 [24.5-29.3]	20.8 [17.1-24.6]	6.1 [2.5-9.6]	0.02
	Control	27.4 [25.1-29.7]	27.3 [23.6-30.9]	0.16 [-3.3-3.6]	
OLS SI	Abo BTXA	13.1 [11.8-14.3]	10.7 [8.7-12.7]	2.4 [0.6-4.2]	0.008
	Control	13.6 [12.4-14.9]	13.6 [11.6-15.5]	0.05 [-1.7-1.8]	
OLS PI	Abo BTXA	13.8 [12.5-15.1]	10.2 [8.3-12.0]	3.7 [1.7-5.6]	0.08
	Control	13.8 [12.5-15.0]	13.7 [11.9-15.5]	0.1 [-1.8-2.0]	
OLS PI Q4 "problem of pain"	Abo BTXA	3.8 [3.4-4.2]	2.9 [2.3-3.5]	0.89 [0.29-1.4]	0.02
	Control	3.5 [3.1-3.9]	3.7 [3.1-4.3]	-0.16 [-0.74-0.42]	

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