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**SUMMARY**

**Evaluation of the efficacy of botulinum toxin therapy in independently walking children with spastic diplegic and hemiplegic form of cerebral palsy**

The aim of the study was to evaluate the efficacy of botulinum toxin therapy in children who are able to walk unaided. The children suffer from spastic form of diplegia and hemiplegia as a result of cerebral palsy.

Materials and methods: The study comprised 24 patients aged 10 to 17 years ( $x = 14$  years) according to the established criteria.

BTX-A (botulinum toxin type A) Dysport preparation was used in the therapy.

Results: Assessment of muscle tone in children with hemiplegia revealed improvement in 66.7% of the children. The most extensive change was observed in children who displayed marked muscle tone in the preliminary examination (3 or 4 points on the Ashworth scale).

Conclusions: Repeated administration of botulinum toxin in children with spastic diplegia and hemiplegia results in the reduction of muscle tension and the increase of range of motion in the joints of the lower limbs. The application of botulinum toxin improves gait pattern and gait aesthetics in children with cerebral palsy.