

References

- Hendrick, D. A., Myers, A. (1995) Wound healing after laser surgery. *Otolaryngological Clinics of North America* **28**: 969–987.
- Oas, R. E., Bartels, J. P. (1990) KTP-532 laser tonsillectomy: a comparison with standard technique. *Laryngoscope* **100**: 385–388.
- Toma, A. G., Blanshard, J., Eynon-Lewis, N., Bridger, M. W. (1985) Post-tonsillectomy pain: the first ten days. *Journal of Laryngology and Otology* **109**: 963–964.

Palatal myoclonus affected by neck posture

Dear Sir,

We read with interest the paper entitled 'palatal myoclonus affected by neck posture' by Tomkinson *et al.* (January 1995). Whilst the authors correctly stipulated that the treatment of persistent palatal myoclonus is generally unsatisfactory, we draw their attention to the encouraging results obtained with the injection of clostridium botulinum toxin into the palatal muscles (Saeed and Brookes, 1993). The three patients presented in our report over two years ago continue to undergo toxin injection every four to six months and to date remain free of their distressing and intrusive tinnitus.

Shakeel R. Saeed, F.R.C.S.,
Royal Preston Hospital,
Sharoe Green Lane,
Preston.

Gerald B. Brookes, F.R.C.S.,
The National Hospital for Neurology and
Neurosurgery,
Queens Square,
London.

References

- Saeed, S. R., Brookes, G. B. (1993) The use of clostridium

- botulinum toxin in palatal myoclonus. A preliminary report. *Journal of Laryngology and Otology* **107**: 208–210.
- Tomkinson, A., Craven, C., Brown, M. J. K. M. (1995) Palatal myoclonus affected by neck posture. *Journal of Laryngology and Otology* **109**: 61–62.

Author's reply

Dear Sir,

We are grateful to Saeed and Brookes for highlighting the success they have experienced with clostridium botulinum toxin in patients with palatal myoclonus. The application of this potent neurotoxin in the treatment of this condition was first described by Le Pajolec *et al.* (1990) and it is encouraging to learn that the three patients initially described by Saeed and Brookes in 1993 have continued to benefit from this therapy.

Botulinum toxin has been applied in various forms of dystonia and movement disorders, in many cases to great benefit (Jankovic, 1994). However, only time will tell if it will live up to its initial promise in the treatment of palatal myoclonus.

A. Tomkinson, F.R.C.S.,
Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck
Surgery,
University of Wales College of Medicine,
Heath Park,
Cardiff.

References

- Jankovic, J. (1994) Botulinum toxin in movement disorders. *Current Opinion in Neurology* **7**: 358–366.
- Le Pajolec, C., Marion, M. H., Bobin, S. (1990) Objective tinnitus and palatal myoclonus. A new therapeutic approach. *Annales d'Oto-Laryngologie et de Chirurgie Cervico-Faciale* **107**: 363–356.
- Saeed, S. R., Brookes, G. B. (1993) The use of clostridium botulinum toxin in palatal myoclonus. A preliminary report. *Journal of Laryngology and Otology* **107**: 208–210.