

# Helping with saliva control in children

This leaflet is for you or to share with your child who has been prescribed Xeomin® to improve their saliva control.



## Drooling can be a challenge

This leaflet aims to give some information on how Xeomin could help to improve your child's saliva control.

**Every day** can bring challenges. And even if saliva control isn't the biggest one, it can have a significant impact on daily living. As you might have experienced, poor saliva control resulting in drooling can cause physical issues such as chapped lips, skin breakdown, dehydration, mouth infections, sleep loss and voice impairment

**In addition,** some children experience psychological effects from others wanting to social distance and low self-esteem, which can be equally severe and affect the whole family.



### Understanding saliva control

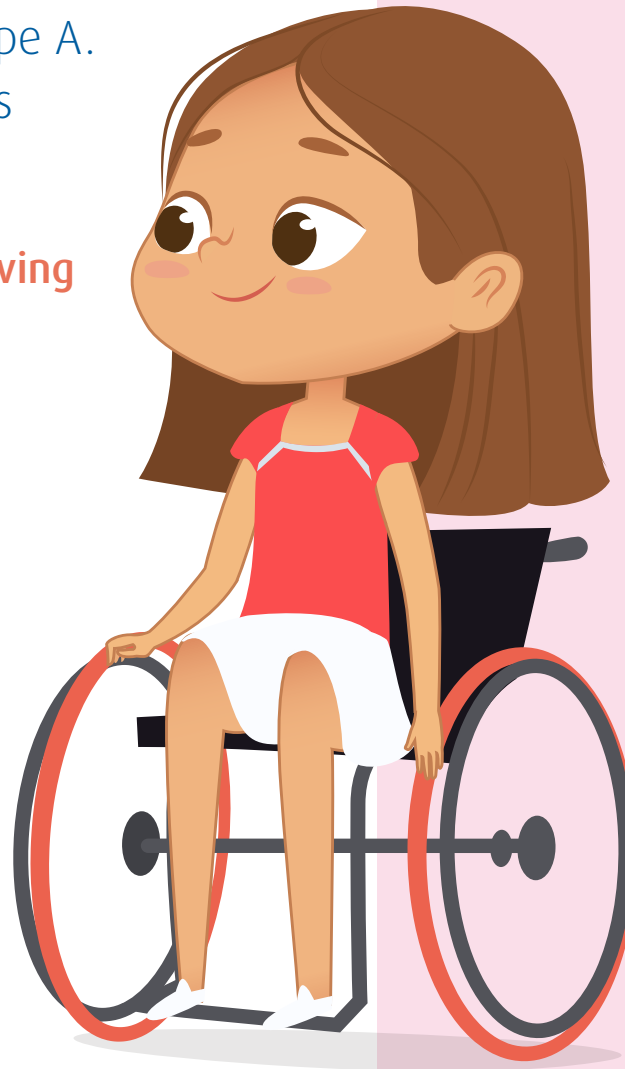
Children with cerebral palsy, brain injury or neurodevelopmental disability often develop constant or persistent drooling also known as chronic sialorrhea. It can result from difficulty holding saliva inside the mouth, issues with swallowing and problems with controlling facial muscles.

# Treatments for saliva control

**Xeomin** has been prescribed to help with saliva control. Xeomin is a medicine that contains Botulinum neurotoxin type A. To decrease the flow of saliva it is injected into the salivary glands.

## Some alternative options not involving medication:

- Head-back wheelchairs
- A device for the mouth
- Portable suction devices
- Speech therapy
- Swallow reminders
- Waterproof backed bibs for small children or scarves with absorbent fabric



## Other potential treatments:

- Oral treatments to improve the saliva control
- Surgery to either close or remove salivary glands or interrupt the nerves that supply the glands that secrete saliva

## How is Xeomin injected?

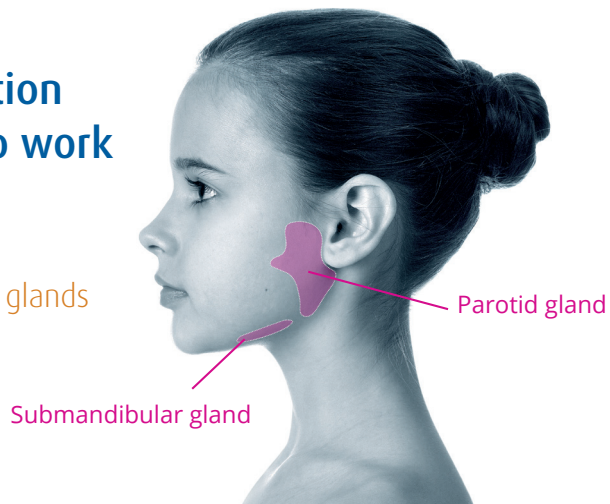
**To improve saliva control**, Xeomin is injected directly into the salivary glands where it reduces saliva production. The injection may be guided by ultrasound to help ensure it is placed in exactly the right spot.

**To make the injection** as comfortable as possible a local anaesthetic, sedation, or combination of these may be offered. The improvement in saliva control may last for around four months or longer. The treatment may then be repeated.

**After the first** treatment with Xeomin you will have the opportunity to discuss the treatment, how it worked for your child, and the results.

**A Xeomin injection usually starts to work in a few days.**

These are the salivary glands that are injected.



## Does Xeomin have side effects?

**Like all medicines**, Xeomin can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Usually, side effects are seen in the first week after treatment and are temporary.

**Side effects** may be restricted to the area around the injection site e.g. local muscle weakness, local pain, inflammation, pins and needles (paraesthesia), reduced sense of touch (hypoesthesia), tenderness, swelling (general), swelling of the soft tissue (oedema), skin redness (erythema), itching, localised infection, haematoma, bleeding and/or bruising).

**An allergic reaction** may occur with Xeomin.

An allergic reaction can cause any of the following symptoms:

- Difficulty with breathing, swallowing or speaking due to the swelling of the face, lips, mouth or throat
- Swelling of the hands, feet or ankles

**If you notice any of these side effects, please inform your doctor immediately and go to the accident and emergency department of your nearest hospital.**

For a full list of side effects please refer to the Patient Information Leaflet.

# Remember you are not alone!



Please, **never hesitate** to talk to your doctor or healthcare professional about any concerns or questions you have.

**Reporting of side effects** If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet. You can also report side effects directly:

**In the United Kingdom** via the Yellow Card Scheme at <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/> **In the Republic of Ireland** via <https://www.hpra.ie/homepage/about-us/report-an-issue/human-adverse-reaction-form>.

**By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.**