If you experience any of these side effects, talk to your healthcare professional straight away. In a small number of cases these side effects could be serious or even fatal. If your usual healthcare professional is not available, seek urgent medical help.

Who is most at risk of serious side effects?
The risk of these side effects may be higher in people who:

• Already have swallowing problems
• Already have breathing problems
• Already have nerve or muscle problems
• Are being treated with medicines which can increase the effect of botulinum toxin

Talk to your healthcare professional if you have, or have had, any of these problems, or if you are taking any other medicines.

The information leaflet in the medicine pack tells you more about the possible side effects.
If you think you have a side effect, including any not listed in this leaflet, or if you have any questions or concerns, please talk to your healthcare professional.

You can also report suspected adverse events directly to the Irish Medicines Board using the online form at www.imb.ie or by using the freepost yellow card system. The IMB can also be contacted on 01-6764971.

What should you do if you see a different healthcare professional?
If you see a different healthcare professional for another problem, make sure that you tell them that you are being treated with botulinum toxin.

For further information, please contact your healthcare professional.

Is there anything else you can do to help control or come to terms with the condition?
As with all forms of dystonia, a positive attitude is important. Learning about hemifacial spasm, and talking to other people who have it, may help you to come to terms with your problem and enable you to find ways of coping with your symptoms. A patient support group can help you to talk to other people in your area who have experience of similar conditions. Support from family and friends is important. They may also benefit from learning more about hemifacial spasm, so that they can better understand your problems.
**What is this guide for?**
This guide provides you with some important facts about Dysport® that you need to be aware of. However, it does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare professional. Further very important information about Dysport®, including special warnings and side effects, is included in the patient information leaflet which is supplied in each package of Dysport®. If you have not received a patient information leaflet, please remember to ask your healthcare professional for one and to read it very carefully.

**What is hemifacial spasm?**
Hemifacial spasm is a type of movement problem which causes the muscles on one side of your face to contract uncontrollably. In its mildest form, it may cause no more than a slight problem, although it may still be visible and embarrassing. In more severe cases, it may interfere with your vision. However, since your other eye is usually unaffected, it rarely causes loss of sight.

**Who is affected by hemifacial spasm?**
Both men and women can be affected. It is more common in middle-aged people.

**What are the signs of hemifacial spasm?**
Hemifacial spasm usually develops gradually. In the beginning you may notice that:
- The muscles around your eye may be affected by muscle spasms
- The spasms may then spread to other muscles on the same side of your face, particularly the muscles of the jaw and mouth
- You may hear a clicking sound in your ear on the affected side each time there is a muscle spasm

Hemifacial spasm tends to affect the left side of the face more often than the right. Hemifacial spasm is usually less variable than a similar condition called dystonia. Some people find that their hemifacial spasm worsens when they are under stress and improves when they lie down.

**What causes hemifacial spasm?**
The causes of hemifacial spasm are not yet fully understood. It is thought that the condition is caused by irritation of the facial nerve between the brain and face.

**Is there a cure for hemifacial spasm?**
Surgery can be curative, although for most people it is not suitable. A number of different treatments are available that can help to keep the problem under control.

**When is surgery used?**
Surgery is used in people with severe and disabling hemifacial spasm or when they do not respond to medicines. The surgery is often effective, but as with any surgery it can be associated with serious side effects.

**What treatments are available?**
Several treatment options are available, including but not limited to, injections of botulinum toxin. Speak to your doctor about all the options to identify the best treatment for you.

**What is botulinum toxin and how does it work?**
Botulinum toxin is a protein that is produced naturally by a particular type of bacterium which can be used as a medicine to relax your muscles.
- Tiny amounts are injected into the muscles that are affected
- It reduces the nerve signals that cause the muscles to contract

**How long does it take for botulinum toxin to start working after injection?**
Relief from symptoms may be expected to begin 2 to 4 days following the injection, with maximum effect within 2 weeks.

**For how long does botulinum toxin work?**
The effect is temporary:
- It usually lasts for 3 to 4 months. After this time the link between the nerve and the muscle starts to work again
- This means that the muscle may start to get stiff again and further botulinum toxin injections may be needed

It is very important that re-treatment is not performed more often than is recommended by the manufacturer.

**What are the possible side effects of botulinum toxin?**
Seek immediate medical help if at any time after treatment:
- You have any problems breathing, swallowing or speaking, with or without swelling of the face, lips, tongue and/or throat
- You get severe redness of the skin or an itchy lumpy rash
- You get very dry eyes

Side effects seen in people treated with botulinum toxin for any illness:
- Bruising or pain around the site where the injection was given or a burning sensation at the time the injection is given
- Generalised weakness
- Tiredness
- Flu-like symptoms
- Itching
- Skin rash and muscle weakness

Other side effects related to the spread of Dysport® away from the site of administration have also been reported (worsened muscle weakness, difficulty with swallowing or inhalation of foreign material which in very rare cases have been fatal).

Side effects seen in people treated with botulinum toxin for hemifacial spasm:
- Drooping eyelids
- Dry eyes
- Double vision
- More tears than usual
- Swelling of the eyelid
- Facial muscle weakness
- Facial nerves may become paralysed
- Difficulty in moving the eye
- The edge of the eyelid may turn in towards the eyeball and the eye muscles may become paralysed

Tell your healthcare professional immediately if you notice very dry eyes.