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Drug Dosage. The authors and the publisher have exerted every effort to ensure that drug selection and dosage set forth in this text are in accord with current recommendations and practice at the time of publication. However, in view of ongoing research, changes in government regulations, and the constant flow of information relating to drug therapy and drug reactions, the reader is urged to check the package insert for each drug for any change in indications and dosage and for added warnings and precautions. This is particularly important when the recommended agent is a new and/or infrequently employed drug.

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Hardly any other drug has a similar history of success and a likely future as botulinum toxin. It was initially used for therapeutic application in strabismus, blepharospasm and hemifacial spasm, and continued in focal dystonia and spasticity, followed by the treatment of wrinkles, hyperhidrosis and a great number of ensuing indications. An analgesic effect was first noticed when treating symptoms or disorders associated with pain. Meanwhile, pain has become the target symptom in many diseases. Many studies conducted in recent years have come up with quite different results. First of all, there are the various headache syndromes. After having established the efficacy of the agent, researchers undertook the task of studying why botulinum toxin gives pain relief. There are a number of models that now explain its mode of action; however, a conclusive evaluation is still lacking. It is beyond doubt that botulinum toxin helps in certain pain syndromes. We have still got to find out which the major ones are, what would be the optimum dose of toxin, and where the preferred site of injection should be. On the one hand, we hope to relieve pain in patients whose symptoms could not be treated adequately before, and on the other, we expect new impulses as to the pathogenesis and therapy of pain disorders to enhance greater advances for the benefit of our patients.

This book presents an overview on the current state of pain management with botulinum toxin. We do not claim to make a final and comprehensive judgement, but merely want to indicate positions and to awake an interest in this extraordinary therapeutical approach to pain.

W.H. Jost