

Case Discussion: Spinal Accessory Nerve Palsy

5/8/2021

Bassem Elhassan

For this patient, if the symptoms truly started 10 months ago then most likely it is the result of parsonage-turner syndrome.

In this case it might be worth to wait another two months and see if there is any recovery.

If the patient wants something to be done, then the spinal accessory can be explored and stimulated. If there is no contraction of the trapezius at all then will do triple muscle transfer. If however, there is life in the muscle then we should wait because it may take several months to recover

Hope this helps

B

5/8/2021

Robert Arciero

Thank you. Look forward to hearing from others. In conjunction with Bassem's thoughts, I was going to at least repeat the EMG to see if there has been any axonal recovery.

Thank you

bob

5/9/2021

Bassem Elhassan

Definitely a good idea

If no signs of recovery at 10 months now then it is worth exploring.

Best of luck

Cheers

B :)

5/10/2021

Mark Frankle

Rule out base of the skull tumor

5/10/2021

Bassem Elhassan

Good point Mark however here MRI of the neck is normal which means her sternocleidomastoid is normal.

In this case the likely hood of brain stem pathology leading to her finding is very low.

I saw patient today that was sent for triple muscle transfer but on exam he has no sternocleidomastoid.

So I send him for MRI of the brain just to make sure there is no proximal pathology.

Cheers

B

5/10/2021

Kyong Min

Dr Warner & CSS Colleagues,

I had a similar situation with a 21 year-old Sailor. He complained of a 3 year history of pain and weakness; and he had no history of trauma. On his exam he had atrophy of his left trapezius and SCM. MRI of the brain showed no lesions. EMG showed Spinal Accessory Nerve pathology.

Dr Elhassan shared with me his video for the TTT technique.

Ten months after the TTT, this Sailor had a SSV of 75% (from 50% preop), he was able to do pull-ups, push-ups and pass his Navy fitness test.

Attached is the case presentation and here is the link with videos. (I have permission from the patient to share this presentation of his case).

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mdeb05jicqanfy2/AABI282O7EHkEXtRxSst94rfa?dl=0>

I hope this is helpful.

Very Respectfully,

Kyong