

NEURALGIA

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Abstract:

Neuralgia (Greek - neuron - "nerve, nerve" + álgos - "pain") is a damage to peripheral nerves, characterized by painful attacks in the innervation zone of nerves. In contrast to neuritis, in neuralgia, there is no loss of movement and sensitivity, and there are no structural changes in the damaged nerve. Neuralgia mainly develops in the nerves that pass through narrow canals and holes.

Key words: neuralgia, disease, cause

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT NEURALGIA

In so-called primary or essential neuralgia, clinical examination does not reveal other diseases; in secondary or symptomatic neuralgia, inflammatory, edematous and other processes that have a negative effect on the nerve are identified.

Neuralgia can be in any part of the body: from the head to the feet. In many cases, neuralgia occurs as a result of various injuries, infectious diseases or severe forms of colds. Cooling is another important cause of neuralgia. In a long-lasting condition, neuralgia passes to the neurotic stage, that is, structural changes and loss of sensitivity appear in the nerve.

TYPES OF NEURALGIA

The most common type of neuralgia is damage to the trigeminal nerve, less often large or small occipital, tongue-pharyngeal nerves.

Trigeminal neuralgia is a type of neuralgia caused by facial trauma, inflammation of the nasal sinuses, diseased teeth, or improper bite. Pain in this neuralgia can occur at any time. Pain can be caused by hot or cold food, loud noise, bright light and brushing the teeth. If the patient touches the tip of the nose, gums or upper lips, this can also cause pain. Itching and tingling of the skin of the face indicate the beginning of an attack. Then a sharp pain that lasts for several minutes begins. During an attack of trigeminal neuralgia, the patient cannot even open his mouth.

Patients with intercostal neuralgia experience severe pain in the ribs. This pain is aggravated during coughing or sneezing. Often, such neuralgia occurs in osteochondrosis of the thoracic spine.

Neuralgia of the external cutaneous nerve of the thigh is accompanied by pain in the outer area of the thigh. During this disease, the patient feels burning and itching of the skin. The attack is aggravated by any movement of the patient.

Palate neuralgia often occurs suddenly, at night. An attack can last from 2-3 hours to two weeks. During this time, the patient feels severe pain in the palate, temples, eyes, and neck. In some cases, the pain also spreads to the hands.

Palate-pharyngeal neuralgia. This type of neuralgia is very rare. The first symptoms of an attack are pain in the throat, which spreads to the ear and lower jaw.

With neuralgia of the occipital nerve, patients feel pain from the nape of the neck to the temple, the pain can spread to the eye area. The main symptom is unbearable, pulsating pain in the head, which appears against the background of coughing and moving the head. Movement during an attack may even cause the patient to vomit.

SYMPTOMS OF NEURALGIA

In neuralgia, the pain has a pulsating nature, is accompanied by vegeto-vascular disorders (redness of the skin, tearing of the eyes, etc.) and sometimes painful stiffness - local muscle spasms. In other cases, the pain is continuous and disappears only after taking painkillers.

TREATMENT OF NEURALGIA

In the treatment of neuralgia, it is important to leave the pain syndrome. In the early stages of the disease, agents that block and distract skin receptors of nerves - ointments and emulsions containing local analgesics, snake and bee venom, novocaine blockade, and heat treatments are used.

In secondary neuralgia — treatment of the main disease; in primary neuralgias, B group vitamins, novocaine injection, local apicain, physiotherapeutic treatment are carried out. In the treatment of neuralgia, the use of laser, acupuncture, pulse currents, magnetic and electromagnetic fields, electrophoresis, ultrasound, infrared and ultraviolet radiation gives significant results. In cases where both drugs and physiotherapy treatments did not help, surgical intervention is performed.

Anticonvulsants are a unique tool for the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia. They are often the only effective pain reliever. Carbamazepine drugs are usually used. Treatment lasts a long time until the symptoms stop.

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