Kearns-Sayre Syndrome

Kearns-Sayre syndrome (KSS) is a rare neuromuscular disorder with onset usually before the age of 20. It is characterized by progressive external *ophthalmoplegia* (paralysis of the eye muscles) and mild skeletal muscle weakness. It may also be associated with other problems such as *retinal pigmentation* (abnormal accumulation of pigmented material on the membrane lining the eyes), cardiac conduction defects, short stature, hearing loss, increased cerebrospinal fluid protein, inability to coordinate voluntary *movements* (ataxia), impaired cognitive dysfunction, diabetes, and other endocrine disorders.

TREATMENT

Treatment for KSS is generally symptomatic and supportive. Cardiac abnormalities may be treated with various cardiac drugs or a pacemaker.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

The *prognosis* (likely outcome) for individuals with KSS varies depending on the severity of *symptoms* (problems).

RESEARCH BEING DONE

The NINDS supports research on neuromuscular disorders such as KSS. The goals of this research are to increase understanding of these disorders, and to find ways to prevent, treat, and, ultimately, cure them.

Research is continually being done to learn more about this problem.

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