Todd's Paralysis

Todd's paralysis is a neurological condition. It is characterized by a brief period of temporary (*transient*) paralysis following a seizure. The paralysis may be partial or complete. It generally occurs on one side of the body. And it usually subsides completely within 48 hours. It may also affect speech or vision. The cause is not known. Examining a patient who is experiencing or who has just experienced Todd's paralysis may help caregivers learn the origin of the seizure. It is important to distinguish the condition from a stroke. A stroke requires different treatment.

TREATMENT

Treatment is symptomatic and supportive. This is because the paralysis disappears quickly.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

An occurrence of Todd's paralysis indicates that a seizure has occurred. The prognosis for the patient depends upon the effects of the seizure. It does not depend upon the occurrence of the paralysis.

RESEARCH BEING DONE

The NINDS supports research on intractable epilepsy and various forms of paralysis. This includes Todd's paralysis. The research focuses on:

- Increasing knowledge of these conditions.
- Finding ways to prevent and treat them.

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

Provided by: The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

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