Tuberous Sclerosis

Tuberous sclerosis is a rare genetic, neurological disorder. It is a multi-system disease. It can affect the brain, kidneys, heart, eyes, lungs, and other organs. Small benign tumors may grow on the face and eyes, as well as in the brain, kidneys, and other organs.

SYMPTOMS

Problems include:

- Seizures. These most often begin in the first year of life.
- Mental retardation.
- Skin and eye lesions.
- In some cases, neurobehavioral problems may also occur.

Individuals with this disease may experience none or all of the symptoms with varying degrees of severity.

DIAGNOSIS

Neuroimaging studies may be able to confirm the diagnosis.

TREATMENT

There is no specific treatment for this disease. Treatment is symptomatic. It may include:

- Anticonvulsant therapy for seizures.
- Dermabrasion and laser removal techniques for the skin problems.
- Drug therapy for neurobehavioral problems.
- Treatment of high blood pressure caused by the kidney problems.
- Surgery to remove growing tumors.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

The prognosis varies depending on the severity of symptoms. There is no cure.

RESEARCH BEING DONE

The NINDS supports research on genetic disorders such as tuberous sclerosis. It is aimed at increasing scientific understanding of these disorders and finding ways to prevent, treat, and cure them.

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

Provided by: The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Document Released: 12/08/2003 Document Re-Released: 03/16/2010

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