Thyrotoxic Myopathy

Thyrotoxic myopathy is a neuromuscular disorder. It may accompany hyperthyroidism or Grave`s disease. Grave's disease is caused by overproduction of the thyroid hormone thyroxine.

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms may include:

- Muscle weakness.
- Wasting of the pelvic girdle and shoulder muscles.
- Fatigue.
- Heat intolerance.
- Muscle breakdown may occur in acute cases.
- Physical acts such as climbing stairs may be difficult.
- Patients may develop muscle damage to the eyes and eyelids. This may affect mobility of the eye muscles.
- Temporary, but severe, attacks of muscle weakness. It is known as periodic paralysis.

TREATMENT

- Treatment is based on treatment for hyperthyroidism. It may include:
  - Prescription of iodine and other drugs.
  - Beta-blockers.
  - Surgery.

Myopathy may improve by restoring normal thyroid function.

- Complete or partial removal of the thyroid may be required in severe cases.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

With treatment, muscle weakness may improve or be reversed.

RESEARCH BEING DONE

The NINDS supports a broad range of research on neuromuscular disorders. This includes thyrotoxic myopathy. Much of this research is aimed at learning more about these disorders and 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

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

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