Wallenberg's Syndrome

Wallenberg's syndrome is a neurological disorder. It is characterized by swallowing difficulties and hoarseness which results from paralysis of a portion of the vocal cord.

CAUSES

The disorder is generally caused by a blockage in a vertebral or cerebellar artery.

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms may include:

- Dizziness.
- Loss of pain or temperature sensitivity.
- Some paralysis of the facial muscles.
- Loss of taste.

Patients with this syndrome often report an unsettling tilt of their environment. This affects their balance.

TREATMENT

Treatment for this syndrome is symptomatic. If swallowing is greatly impaired, a feeding tube may be needed. Therapy and intraoral appliances may aid speech and swallowing. In some cases, medication reduces or eliminates pain.

Individuals with this syndrome may have a lessening of their symptoms as a result of medical intervention. For some patients, symptoms go away after a few weeks of treatment.

RESEARCH BEING DONE

The NINDS supports and conducts a wide range of research on disorders involving paralysis. This includes Wallenberg's syndrome. Much of this research focuses on finding ways to prevent, treat, and cure these disorders.

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

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