Residency Training: Bilateral facial nerve palsies after a suicide attempt by hanging

Ryul Kim, MD
Jinsun Jun, MD
Hyunwoo Nam, MD,
PhD

Correspondence to
Dr. Nam:
hwnam@brm.co.kr

Figure 1 Photographs of the front and lateral views

(A) Ligature mark encircling horizontally from the anterior neck to bilateral postauricular areas. (B) When the patient was instructed to smile and raise her eyebrows, she showed bilateral peripheral facial palsies.

Figure 2 Blink reflex study

Blink reflex showed no ipsilateral R1 or R2 responses and contralateral R2 responses on (A) left and (B) right supraorbital nerve stimulations.

From the Department of Neurology, Seoul National University Boramae Hospital, Seoul, Korea.

Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures. Funding information and disclosures deemed relevant by the authors, if any, are provided at the end of the article.

A 56-year-old woman presented with bilateral facial paralysis. Two days before, she had attempted to hang herself. Immediately after the event, her husband noted that her facial expressions had changed but it was not until 2 days later that she was brought to the hospital after she failed to improve. Examination revealed a ligature mark from the anterior neck to bilateral postauricular areas (figure 1, A) and bilateral peripheral facial palsies (figure 1, B). Brain MRI showed no hypoxic damage. Testing of the blink reflex showed bilateral efferent pathway defects (figure 2). The extratemporal segment of the facial nerve originates at the stylomastoid foramen and passes through the parotid gland.¹ In our patient, compression provoked by the ligature over the extratemporal segment of the facial nerves just outside the stylomastoid foramen may have led to regional ischemia.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Ryul Kim: drafting/revising the manuscript, design and conceptualization of the study, analysis and interpretation of the data. Jinsun Jun: design and conceptualization of the study, analysis and interpretation of the data, revising the manuscript. Hyunwoo Nam: drafting/revising the manuscript, design and conceptualization of the study.

STUDY FUNDING

No targeted funding reported.

DISCLOSURE

The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

REFERENCE

1. Ozturk O, Serin GM, Inanli S, Tutkun A. Acute extratemporal facial nerve paralysis after a suicide attempt by hanging. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg* 2005;133:644.

Neurology®

Residency Training: Bilateral facial nerve palsies after a suicide attempt by hanging

Ryul Kim, Jinsun Jun and Hyunwoo Nam

Neurology 2015;84:e46-e47

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000001268

This information is current as of February 16, 2015

Updated Information & Services	including high resolution figures, can be found at: http://n.neurology.org/content/84/7/e46.full
References	This article cites 1 articles, 0 of which you can access for free at: http://n.neurology.org/content/84/7/e46.full#ref-list-1
Subspecialty Collections	This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s): Peripheral nerve trauma http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/peripheral_nerve_trauma
Permissions & Licensing	Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at: http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions
Reprints	Information about ordering reprints can be found online: http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise

Neurology® is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 1951, it is now a weekly with 48 issues per year. Copyright © 2015 American Academy of Neurology. All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0028-3878. Online ISSN: 1526-632X.