ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS AND CLINICAL PHENOTYPE IN FAMILIAL AND SPORADIC PRIMARY BLEPHAROSPASM

Roger Kurlan, Summit, NJ: I read with interest in the article by Defazio et al.1 Their study revealed an evident relationship between eye symptoms and diseases (dry eyes, blepharitis, keratoconjunctivitis) and the occurrence of the dystonic condition primary blepharospasm. He provides supportive examples from his own research into patients with Meige syndrome. Dr. Kashyape, in response to the study by Dr. Sharma et al. into temporal lobe pathology in epilepsy of infancy with migrating focal seizures, presents data from one of his patients with this epilepsy syndrome who had a nonfocal brain MRI but hippocampal sclerosis on autopsy. The authors respond that they continue to contend that this disease is not a structural epilepsy but that more research should be pursued.

Megan Alcauskas, MD, and Robert C. Griggs, MD

CHILD NEUROLOGY: EPILEPSY OF INFANCY WITH MIGRATING FOCAL SEIZURES

Pawan S. Kashyape, Katharine Forrest, Southampton, UK: In their review, Sharma et al.1 stated that neuroimaging was normal in all reported patients. We wish to draw attention to 4 reported cases and our experience of a single case of hippocampal sclerosis in epileptic encephalopathy. We wish to draw attention to 4 reported cases and our experience of a single case of hippocampal sclerosis in epileptic encephalopathy. Caraballo et al.2 reported 3 cases with radiologic evidence of hippocampal sclerosis on MRI scans yet the exact timing could not be determined. We recommend further research into this putative association.


Editors’ Note: This week’s WriteClick submitters offer their own data to either support or question the conclusions of 2 studies. In response to the study by Dr. Defazio et al. linking ocular pathology and the development of blepharospasm, Dr. Kurlan proposes, as a possible mechanism, that chronic ocular irritation could lead to abnormal sensory feedback that disturbs central motor control signals, thereby causing blepharospasm. He provides supportive examples from his own research into patients with Meige syndrome. Dr. Kashyape, in response to the study by Dr. Sharma et al. into temporal lobe pathology in epilepsy of infancy with migrating focal seizures, presents data from one of his patients with this epilepsy syndrome who had a nonfocal brain MRI but hippocampal sclerosis on autopsy. The authors respond that they continue to contend that this disease is not a structural epilepsy but that more research should be pursued.

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Environmental Risk Factors and Clinical Phenotype in Familial and Sporadic Primary Blepharospasm

Roger Kurlan

Neurology 2011;77:2138
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e31823ff01a

This information is current as of December 12, 2011

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