Crocodile tears syndrome

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A 39-year-old female presented with excessive tearing while eating. A year earlier she developed bilateral facial palsy due to neurosarcoidosis and the deficit persisted despite immunosuppressive treatment. Schirmer's test in the resting position was 1 mm on the left and 3 mm on the right eye (normal values >10 mm) (Fig. 1). During eating (Fig. 2) it was 15 mm on the left and 10 mm on the right eye, demonstrating gustatory hyperlacrimation.

Fig. 1 Schirmer's test in the resting position

Fig. 2 Schirmer's test during eating

Crocodile tears syndrome is a rare symptom known to occur after facial nerve palsy. The presumed pathophysiological mechanism is misdirected nerve regeneration or artificial synapse forming following nerve injury [1].

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest Dr. Adamec reports no disclosures. Dr. Habek reports no disclosures.

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Reference

1. Sadjadpour K (1975) Postfacial palsy phenomena: faulty nerve regeneration or ephaptic transmission? Brain Res 95:403–406

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