



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

HERPES ZOSTER OTICUS

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BACKGROUND: Introduction : Ramsay hunt syndrome also termed as Hunt's Syndrome and herpes zoster oticus. It occurs in people who have had chickenpox and represents a reactivation of the dormant varicella-zoster virus in geniculate ganglion. If the virus reactivates and affects facial nerve, the result is Ramsay Hunt syndrome. It affects cranial nerves 7 and 8. It compresses the vestibulocochlear nerve and presents as a triad of : ipsilateral facial paralysis ,Ear pain , Vesicles In auditory canal and auricle. Vertigo is also frequently seen. Case : 42/F came to OPD with c/c of ear discharge , ear pain , vertigo since 4 days. Pt was apparently alright 4 days back then complained of developing serosanguinous discharge asossciated with ear pain . Lesions were sudden in onset, progressive in nature gradually increased in intensity. Pain was of throbbing type and continuos in nature. After admission to hospital , patient developed deviation of mouth to left side and difficulty in deglutition on the same night.

Local examination : well defined multiple grouped vesicular lesions present over erythematous base over ear pinna , preauricular area and temporal area of scalp with multiple crusted lesions.

Patient was started on IV fluids, steroids , antiviral , antibiotics and analgesics.

Steroid was continued for 2 months and lesions resolved.

OBSERVATION: It is a rare complication of herpes zoster and early treatment can prevent further damage to nerve.

KEY MESSAGE: Patients with Ramsay-hunt syndrome, when early diagnosed and treated, achieve high rates of complete recovery.

