



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

RAMSAY-HUNT SYNDROME: CASE REPORT

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Background: Ramsay-Hunt Syndrome (RHS) is due to varicella-zoster virus reactivation in sensory root ganglia. The geniculate ganglion is located on the facial nerve in the depths of the internal auditory meatus at the entrance of the bony fallopian canal. The infection involves facial and vestibulocochlear nerves, causing peripheral facial paralysis, otalgia and sensorineural hearing loss. Vestibular symptoms are rare.

Observation: A 76-year-old female patient came to our hospital with a clinical complaint of otalgia and vesicular rash of the skin of the ear canal. On examination we noted left facial paralysis associated with umbilicated vesicles with hemorrhagic content on the left auricle. Diagnosis was performed on signs and symptoms. The treatment included: prednisone (40mg/day for 14 days and tapering afterwards); intravenous acyclovir (10mg/kg every 8 hours for 14 days) and motor physiotherapy and functional phonoaudiology after acute phase.

Key message: The complications of RHS, as permanent hearing loss and eye damage, point out the importance of early diagnosis and treatment.

