

FACIAL PALSY IN IRANIAN PATIENTS WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Y. Ilkhchoui M. Sharifi A. Soltanzadeh

Tehran University of Medical Science, Tehran, Iran

Facial palsy occurred in 53(4.96%) of 1069 Iranian patients with multiple sclerosis who has been referred to a university affiliated neurology clinic in Tehran between 1985 and 2007. Facial palsy began on average 22.5 months after the onset of MS but in 22 (2.05%) was the first manifestation of MS preceding the next MS manifestation by an average 2.7 years. (0.5-10 years) in most of these patients peripheral facial palsy was associated with other neurological symptoms(32 patients=60.38%)and in 21 patients (39.62%) it was isolated in 14 patients (1.31% of all MS patients)had isolated facial palsy as the first sign of disease and 7 patients (0.65%) had isolated facial palsy during the course of MS by an average 5.9 years after the onset of MS (4 months to 13 years). Other neurological manifestations associated with facial palsy in 32 patients are: diplopia in 10 patients, pyramidal signs in 8 patients, ataxia in 6 patients, optic neuritis in 5, taste impairments and nystagmus and INO each in 4 patients.