

[PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE]

Auriculotemporal Nerve Syndrome

Hirofumi Yoshida¹ and Eijiro Yamashita²

Key words: autonomic nerve disorder, auriculotemporal nerve syndrome, Frey's syndrome, gustatory sweating

(Intern Med 57: 287, 2018)

(DOI: 10.2169/internalmedicine.9303-17)



Picture.

A 31-year-old man complained of recurrent episodes of left-dominant facial flushing and sweating precipitated by eating. He previously broke his bilateral mandibular condyles and was treated with conservative management. He recovered uneventfully but developed these symptoms a month after the injury. He had no history nor symptoms of a food

allergy, so auriculotemporal nerve syndrome was suspected. We performed a provocation test. As soon as the patient bit into a slice of lemon, erythema and sweating appeared on the auriculotemporal region (Picture). We therefore confirm the diagnosis of auriculotemporal nerve syndrome, also known as Frey's syndrome or gustatory sweating. With this diagnosis, he felt more at ease and selected no treatment. This syndrome can develop after a wide variety of insults, such as trauma, surgery or inflammation to the auriculotemporal nerve fibers. It is considered to be the result of misdirected regeneration of parasympathetic fibers onto sympathetic receptors supplying sweat glands instead of salivary glands (1).

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

Reference

1. Dunbar EM, Singer TW, Singer K, Knight H, Lanska D, Okun MS. Understanding gustatory sweating. What have we learned from Lucja Frey and her predecessors? *Clin Auton Res* **12**: 179-184, 2002.

The Internal Medicine is an Open Access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view the details of this license, please visit (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

¹Department of General Internal Medicine, Rakuwakai Otowa Hospital, Japan and ²Department of Cardiovascular surgery, Rakuwakai Otowa Hospital, Japan

Received: April 10, 2017; Accepted: May 11, 2017; Advance Publication by J-STAGE: October 16, 2017

Correspondence to Dr. Hirofumi Yoshida, hirofumi.1623.yoshida@gmail.com

© 2018 The Japanese Society of Internal Medicine. *Intern Med* 57: 287, 2018