Evolution of the degree of peripheral facial palsy in diabetic and non-diabetic patients

Thais Knoll Ribeiro, MD1; José Ricardo Gurgel Testa, MD, PhD1
1 Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP)

ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE: Peripheral facial palsy (PPF) is a disorder of neural common causes that are still unknown. Possible causes include vascular disorders, inflammatory and immune responses, or a possibly viral. According to the literature there is an association between the incidence of PPF and Diabetes Mellitus (DM), a disease which is known to occur neuropathies. The objective of this study was to evaluate the outcome of patients with concomitant DM and PPF, as well as to compare the evolution of these patients compared to patients without DM and PPF through clinical, laboratory, and electrophysiological tests.

METHODS: An observational case-control study. Outpatient follow-up of 50 patients according to the presence or absence of DM and PPF that were divided into 4 groups and matched. All patients underwent the following tests: tympanometry, audiometry, facial symmetry, and electrophysiological testing exams.

RESULTS: The patients were divided into 4 groups as follows: Group 1: Individuals without Facial Palsy and with Diabetes Mellitus; Group 2: Individuals without Facial Palsy and without Diabetes Mellitus; Group 3: Individuals with Facial Palsy and with Diabetes Mellitus; Group 4: Individuals with Facial Palsy and without Diabetes Mellitus. The comparison of the evolution of the degree of peripheral facial palsy was statistically higher in the first 4 months of follow-up than in patients without diabetes mellitus.

CONCLUSIONS: In our findings we concluded that diabetic patients had a slower recovery time and poor degree of facial paralysis when compared to non-diabetics. For diabetic patients, PPF should be treated with early diagnosis and treatment to improve the outcome and reduce the rate of complications associated with diabetes mellitus.