

Third Nerve Palsy

This material will help you understand third nerve palsy and how it is treated.

What is third nerve palsy?

There are 12 pairs of nerves (cranial nerves) that control most of the functions of the head and neck. These functions include eye movements, swallowing, facial sensation, and other facial movements. One of those nerves is the third cranial nerve. The third cranial nerve controls specific eye movements, some pupil function, and upper eye lid function. If this nerve is not working properly on one or both sides of the head, it is called a “palsy.” Common symptoms of third nerve palsy include double vision, droopy eyelid, and large pupil size.

What causes third nerve palsy?

There are many causes of third nerve palsy. Head injury, infection, inflammation, brain tumor, aneurysm, diabetes or high blood pressure may all be causes. In some cases, the exact cause of the condition is unknown.

How is third nerve palsy treated?

Your doctor will take a complete medical history and perform an eye exam to find the underlying cause for the third nerve palsy. You

may also need blood tests or imaging tests like an MRI or a blood vessel test. In some cases, a third nerve palsy resolves on its own. In the meantime, your doctor may have you use prisms or patches to help manage double vision. If your third nerve palsy does not get better after six months, you may need surgery to help realign your eyes.

For more information, scan this code with your smartphone or visit the website listed.



<http://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/104>

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