

Hemifacial Spasm

This material will help you understand hemifacial spasm and how it is treated.

What is hemifacial spasm?

Hemifacial spasm is an involuntary spasm of the muscles on one side of the face. Most people first notice symptoms near one eye. Spasm of the eyelid may force the eye to close. The muscles in the cheek or around the mouth on the same side may also spasm. As the condition progresses, people may experience weakness in facial muscles on the same side as the spasm.

What causes hemifacial spasm?

Hemifacial spasm may be caused by a blood vessel pressing on a facial nerve or a growth along the facial nerve. In many cases, no cause is identified.

How is hemifacial spasm treated?

If a blood vessel is pushing on the facial nerve, surgery may be an option. Another treatment for it is botulinum toxin injections. As part of this treatment, small doses of medicine are injected to the muscles around your eye and face. This helps reduce spasms for about 3 months. Additional injections every 3 months are necessary.

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



http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/hemifacial_spasm/hemifacial_spasm.htm

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