

E-Pearl of the Week

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Gradenigo syndrome

Gradenigo described a complication of otitis media in which extension of inflammation into the petrous portion of the temporal bone results in an ipsilateral abducens nerve palsy and pain involving the territory innervated by the first or second division of the ipsilateral trigeminal nerve. Patients may complain of diplopia, unilateral retroorbital pain, otorrhea, and otalgia. This syndrome illustrates the anatomical proximity of the petrous apex to the trigeminal ganglion and abducens nerve. Besides petrous apicitis, this syndrome has also been described in patients with traumatic injuries, venous sinus thrombosis, and neoplasms.

References

Gradenigo G. Ueber die paralyse des Nervus abducens bei Otitis. Arch Ohrenheilkunde 1907;774:149-187.

Hardjasudarma M, Edwards RL, Ganley JP, Aarstad RF. Magnetic Resonance Imaging Features of Gradenigo's Syndrome. American Journal of Otolaryngology 1995;16(4):247-250.