

E-Pearl of the Week

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Oculosympathetic spasm

Some patients with mid-cervical spinal cord lesions may have unilateral pupillary dilation that is triggered by ipsilateral arm elevation and stretching. This phenomenon is called *oculosympathetic spasm* and has been associated with lesions of the C3 to C6 spinal cord levels. This has been described in patients with syringomyelia, spinal cord infarction, and traumatic injuries to the cervical spine. The pathophysiology of this phenomenon is poorly understood, but focal autonomic hyperreflexia has been hypothesized.

References:

Brazis PW, Masdeu JC, Biller J. Localization in Clinical Neurology, 4th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2001: 206.