Spasmodic Dysphonia in Meige Syndrome Responding to Clonazepam

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Picture 1.

Picture 2.
A 63-year-old man with dyspnea and inspiratory stridor was referred to our division six months from the onset because bilateral vocal cord paresis had been observed through a laryngeal endoscope. Head and cervical MRI, enhanced body CT, cerebrospinal fluid examination, and serologic examination including anti-acetylcholine receptor antibody and thyroid-related hormones were performed, but did not reveal remarkable findings. Bilateral blepharospasm, oromandibular dystonia, and spasmodic dysphonia were revealed by neurological examination and electromyography (Picture 1A). A sensory trick could dramatically reduce all of his dystonia (Picture 1B) and we eventually diagnosed his illness as Meige syndrome. A laryngeal endoscope study revealed vocal cord dystonia as the cause of his spasmodic dysphonia and dyspnea (Picture 2A, Movie 1). Clonazepam was prescribed and all of his symptoms were clearly improved (Picture 2B, Movie 2). There have been few cases of Meige syndrome that presented with spasmodic dysphonia (1) and responded to drug treatment (2).

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References