Herpes Labialis in Multiple Sclerosis with a Trigeminal Lesion

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A 61-year-old woman had five episodes of myelitis and was diagnosed as multiple sclerosis (MS). She had an eruption on her left lower lip and the diagnosis of herpes labialis was confirmed by a dermatologist (Picture 1a). Sensory disturbance in the left mandibular nerve region was observed. Brain MRI revealed a T2-hyperintense linear lesion along the left intramedullary trigeminal nerve root (Picture 1b). This patient was infected with HSV confirmed by ELISA.

We previously reported 5 patients with MS who had peculiar MRI lesions along the pontine intramedullary trigeminal nerve root with various ipsilateral facial sensory manifestations (1). We supposed that those lesions might have been virally induced because they were similar to demyelinating lesions induced by experimental inoculation of HSV on the corneas of mice (2). The present patient may be a rare example of clinical manifestations of reactivated HSV in both proximal and distal portions of trigeminal nerve.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

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References