

Trigeminal trophic syndrome secondary to lateral medullary infarction

Síndrome trófico do trigémio secundário a enfarte medular lateral

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Trigeminal trophic syndrome (TTS) is a rare condition characterized by chronic facial ulceration following damage to the trigeminal sensory pathway.^{1,2} This may result from central causes, such as lateral medullary (Wallenberg) syndrome, often due to occlusion of the vertebral artery or the posterior inferior cerebellar artery (PICA). Resulting sensory disturbances, including dysesthesia and pruritus, lead to repetitive scratching and characteristic ulcerations. A 49-year-old man with a history of the left PICA infarction developed severe pruritus and ulcerative lesions on the left hemiface and scalp. Clinical examination revealed multiple bright red ulcerations intermixed with atrophic scarring and alopecia within the ipsilateral trigeminal distribution (Fig. 1). Microbiological testing was negative for herpes simplex virus and varicella-zoster virus. Histopathology was consistent with chronic ulceration and showed no evidence of malignancy or infection, supporting a diagnosis of TTS. Topical mupirocin was prescribed for as-needed application in the event of signs suggestive of secondary bacterial infection of the excoriated lesions. Despite treatment with high-dose gabapentin, amitriptyline, and duloxetine, the condition remains refractory, highlighting the therapeutic challenge posed by persistent dysesthesia in TTS.

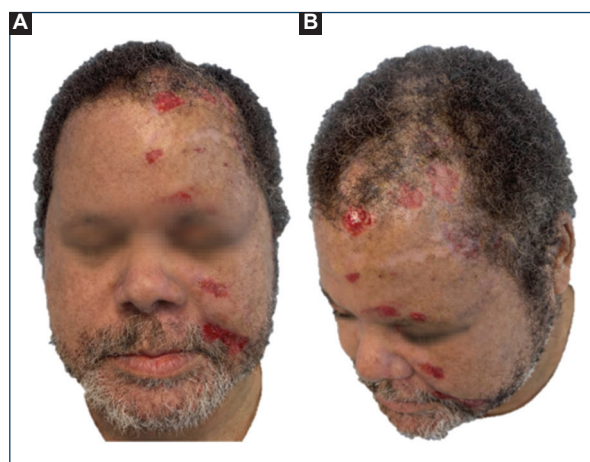


Figure 1. A and B: Trigeminal trophic syndrome: ulcerations, erosions, scars, and cicatricial alopecia.

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Conflicts of Interest

None.

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Ethical considerations

Protection of human subjects and animals. The authors declare to have followed the ethical standards of the relevant experimentation committee, according to the World Medical Association and the Declaration of Helsinki. The procedures were approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee.

Confidentiality, informed consent, and ethical approval. The authors have followed their institution's confidentiality protocols, obtained informed consent from all patients, and secured approval from the Ethics

Committee. SAGER guidelines have been followed as applicable to the nature of the study.

Declaration on the use of artificial intelligence. The authors declare that no generative artificial intelligence was used in the writing or creation of the content of this manuscript.

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