Quick Facts About Microvascular Cranial Nerve Palsy

What Is a Microvascular Cranial Nerve Palsy?

- There are three cranial nerves that control our eye movements.
- A microvascular cranial nerve palsy occurs when one of these nerves becomes weak, due to temporary poor blood flow to the nerve.
- Some doctors call this a “stroke to the nerve.” However, it is different from a stroke of the brain.

How Can a Microvascular Cranial Nerve Palsy Affect Me?

- If one of the nerves that moves the eye is affected, double vision (seeing two of the same object or a shadow/ghost image of the same object) with both eyes open occurs.
- Severe pain can occur at the same time as the double vision. This pain is on the same side as the affected nerve. The pain can be severe but typically improves over a few weeks to months.

What Should I Do About a Microvascular Cranial Nerve Palsy?

- A neuro-ophthalmologist checks eye movements, lids, and pupils.
- In most cases, the nerves are not permanently injured and recovery occurs over 6 to 12 weeks.
- The double vision may be treated in the short-term by patching either eye or a temporary prism.

https://www.nanosweb.org/cnpalsy

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