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ACTIVITY 4

This is patient AM, 28-year-old male who came in the ER because of drooping of his left face. He said he woke up and he could not move his left face.

He has no other muscle weakness. He is conscious and coherent although he had a little difficulty speaking because the left side of his lips drooped. He had normal blood pressure and he had no other co-morbidities. He was diagnosed to have Bell's palsy. Name 5 muscles which are affected and list its actions. Describe the mechanism of his muscle weakness. What other symptoms could the patient exhibit as a result of facial muscle weakness?

5 muscles and their actions:

1. **Muscle:** Platysma
Action: Draws outer part of lower lip inferiorly and posteriorly as in pouting; depresses mandible
2. **Muscle:** Orbicularis oris
Action: Closes and protrudes lips, as in kissing; compresses lips against teeth; and shapes lips during speech
3. **Muscle:** Orbicularis oculi
Action: Closes eye
4. **Muscle:** Risorius
Action: Draws angles of mouth laterally, as in grimacing.
5. **Muscle:** Buccinator
Action: Presses cheeks against teeth and lips, as in whistling, blowing and sucking; draws corner of mouth laterally; and assists in mastication (chewing) by keeping food between the teeth (and not between the teeth and cheeks)

Mechanism of his muscle weakness:

- It is a unilateral paralysis of the muscles of facial expression. It is due to damage or disease of the facial (VII) nerve that controls the muscles in our face become damaged or stops working properly (usually due to swelling and inflammation), this leads to the patient being unable to move their facial muscles, hence the muscle weakness.

Other symptoms that the patient could exhibit as a result of facial muscle weakness:

- Drooling from one side of your mouth
- Difficulty closing an eyelid, which causes eye dryness
- Facial pain or abnormal sensations
- Excessive tearing in one eye
- Problems with taste
- Low tolerance for loud noises
- Pain around the jaw and behind the ear
- Problems eating or drinking (swallowing issues)
- The person cannot wrinkle their forehead or pucker lips
- Disordered movements of the muscles in charge of facial expressions
- Loss of feeling in the face

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