NEUROLOGICAL PICTURE

Aberrant regeneration of the third cranial nerve

A 57 year old woman developed a sudden and painful complete left third nerve palsy from a giant aneurysm at the junction of the left internal carotid and posterior communicating arteries. This was treated by coil embolisations. Ten months later there were features of an aberrant reinnervation of the levator palpebrae superioris by the interrupted third nerve fibres to the extraocular muscles. The left sided ptosis improved whenever the third nerve was employed during attempts at elevation, depression, or adduction of that eye (top left, top right, and bottom left respectively). The ptosis was still evident during abduction, when only the sixth nerve was employed (bottom right).

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