

update on How Arach causes pain

Posted by DocSarah - 15 Nov 2005 15:42

Hi Kim and everyone.

I see the section of my long Arachnoiditis article on how it causes pain has received a lot of hits.

I thought I'd share with you some insight given me recently by a neurosurgeon. He reckons that dull aching pain is caused by stretching of the dural sac and that electric shock pain (shooting) is likely to be due to nerve stretching (which won't necessarily show up on MRI because the patient is lying flat and the nerve stretching happens more on standing/moving)

Any comments?

Regards,

DocSarah

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Re:update on How Arach causes pain

Posted by DocSarah - 10 Dec 2005 19:17

Mitsuyo,

I think you should make sure you get this chest pain checked out to exclude any infection in the armpit area.

You are correct in saying that fibromyalgia does not cause swelling. So the joint swelling you have is a bit of a mystery. But it could be related to AA.

Good luck on Monday,

Regards,

DocSarah

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Re:update on How Arach causes pain

Posted by mitsuyo - 10 Dec 2005 23:15

Hi DocSarah,

I really appreciate your concern. I am very anxious to find out if something else is causing my chest pain. Also, I don't know why my pulse seems to fluctuate even while resting. I seem to experience something atypical or unexplainable medically, which doctors tend to think there is no need to worry about since they can't figure out why. Well, it sounds just like what people with AA go through...

I know you yourself have a lot on your plate, but you still take time out of your busy schedule to read our posts and reply with careful thoughts and words. I am so very grateful that you do what you do. I just joined this Forum very recently but feel like I have learned so much here. Thank you so much for being there for me and all others who suffer from AA.

Best regards,

Mitsuyo

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Re:update on How Arach causes pain

Posted by DocSarah - 11 Dec 2005 17:17

Hi Mitsuyo,

I'm just glad to help in some small way. I hope you solve the mystery of your chest pain and the fluctuating pulse rate; it could all be related to something fairly straightforward like an infection.

Let me know how you get on.

All the best,

DocSarah

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Re:update on How Arach causes pain

Posted by mitsuyo - 13 Dec 2005 15:31

Hi DocSarah,

I went to see my rheumatologist yesterday. She could reproduce the pain when she pressed along the ribs, including the area bear the armpit, and therefore concluded that the pain was from Intercostal Neuralgia. She didn't think there was any infection. She didn't think the pain was from a heart condition. She said that Costochondritis is confined to the junctions where the breast bone meets the rib bones and that it doesn't affect the side or back. I had an MRI of Thoracic spine done in 2004, but it was normal except there was a mild scoliosis. Based on this MRI, she didn't think I had any problem with the spinal cord area. FYI: The MRI done in 2003 showed a mild disc herniation at, I think, T9-T10 and atypical looking hemangioma at L1. Do you think I should get another MRI? My whole spine hurts too.

So, she told me to try Lyrica to deal with the neuropathic pain of Intercostal Neuralgia and to try to do more vigorous stretching, and even yoga or pilate type exercise. If the pain gets worse, she will give me a nerve block injection. Would you mind explaining Intercostal Neualgia (what it is, possible causes, treatment options, etc) since I can't get any good information on any website so far. Do you think Lyrica is appropriate for the treatment of this condition?

For fluctuating pulse, she said I should get another consultation from either my internist or a cardiologist and ask for Holter monitor. I read your article on Autonomic Dysreflexia yesterday, which pretty much describes what I have been experiencing. Does it mean I could have cord injury somewhere above my lower back? I am really tempted to believe there is AA in my cervical spine, at least. Any thoughts on this one???

I can't thank you enough for all your help! I am so grateful to know you are there for us. I do apologise for a lengthy post again.

Best regards,

Mitsuyo

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I can't thank you enough for all your help! I am so grateful to know you are there for us. I do apologise for a lengthy post again.

Best regards,

Mitsuyo

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Re:update on How Arach causes pain

Posted by DocSarah - 16 Dec 2005 11:41

Hi Mitsuyo,

Intercostal neuralgia is nerve pain from the nerves running between the ribs. It can have various causes, some due to trauma (or stretching) or even from viral infections.

Although you may have some autonomic dysfunction, that doesn't necessarily mean you have advanced AA or that it is progressing up the spine. We see this sort of problem in many people with unrelieved pain.

Lyrica (pregabalin) is absolutely the right drug for the neuralgia. Let me know how you get on!

Regards,

DocSarah

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