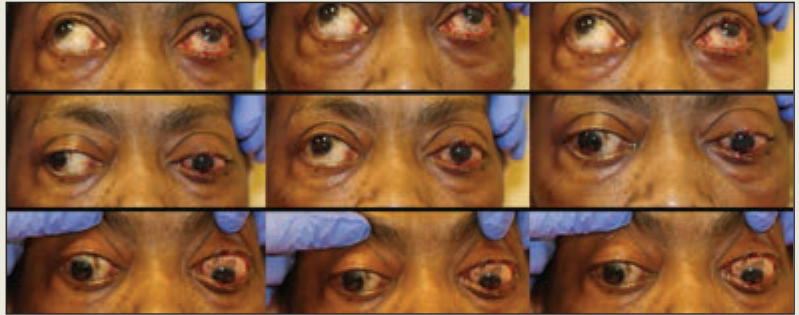


LAST MONTH'S BLINK

Eight-and-a-Half Syndrome

A 58-year-old African-American woman presented with blurry vision and foreign body sensation in the left eye. She had been recently hospitalized with a hemorrhagic pontine stroke secondary to uncontrolled hypertension. On examination, her visual acuity was 20/60 in the right eye and counting fingers in the left. She was unable to close her left eye. As a result, she had developed a large corneal epithelial defect.

Motility exam showed a left gaze palsy and left eye limitation of adduction. One-and-a-half syndrome refers to horizontal gaze palsy (one) with internuclear ophthalmoplegia (half) due to a lesion of the paramedian pontine reticular formation and medial



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longitudinal fasciculus. When cranial nerve VII is affected, as in this case secondary to involvement of the facial nerve colliculus, the result is eight-and-a-half syndrome (referring to CN VII plus one-and-a-half).

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