

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 - 30 Nov 2005 11:14

Hi Mitsuyo,

in short, yes, there does seem to be a link between AA and autoimmune conditions such as Lupus. However, the rash etc. could be from another cause. Are you on an anticonvulsants for instance? Also, it is possible the itching could be caused by opiates (morphine related drugs) if you are on them.

Let me know how things go for you

All the best,

DocSarah

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Re:update on How Arach causes pain

Posted by mitsuyo - 01 Dec 2005 21:50

Dear DocSarah,

I have not been on any of the medications you mentioned because I am very sensitive to them. I went to a lab on Monday right after my appointment with the rheumatologist who wanted to test me for Lupus. I started taking Prednisone the very next morning. I am supposed to take 8 mg for 10 days and then 4 mg for 2 weeks. I will see my doctor on December 14 again.

The swelling on my fingers do seem to be much better since I started taking the med. Or, maybe a coincidence.... But I started having a chest pain (left sided) 3-4 days ago. First one came as I was lying with my youngest at bed time. For about 10 seconds or so, I had a sharp pain as I tried to breathe deeply, and that was it. Next day, something similar happened again. Then next day, in the middle of the night this time, I started having pain at the same place. This time, it wasn't affected by my breathing; however, it lasted for a long time, radiating to the back, left shoulder blade area. Then today, I had a misilar pain this morning just in my left chest. One of the Lupus articles I read mentioned something like this as a symptom of Lupus. The chest pain is not really a new thing for me as I have experienced it on and off as "muscle spasm" or so considered of fibromyalgia. So, I am very anxious to find out the result of my blood test.

At the same time, my shoulders and arms seem to be getting heavier and weaker and more painful, particularly with use, of course. At least for itching, burning, shooting pain, etc, both my rheumatologist and neurologist think Lyrica might be helpful to me. Sometimes I just wonder and wish if someone could do more thorough investigations of what's really happening to my body. It's just annoying and worrisome that something new keeps coming up.

I will let you know my blood test result when I get it.

Thanks as always.

Mitsuyo

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Re:update on How Arach causes pain

Posted by mitsuyo - 01 Dec 2005 21:54

Dear DocSarah,

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Thanks as always.

Mitsuyo

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Re:update on How Arach causes pain

Posted by mitsuyo - 05 Dec 2005 23:08

Hi DocSarah,

I got the result of my blood test: all negative for Lupus. Well, my chest pain was getting worse, so I called my rheumatologist's office, thinking it might be related to Lupus. I was able to get an appointment today, and that's when I got the result.

My heart rate was high all morning. When I was at her office, it was 112, and she told me to monitor it. Also, my blood pressure was high: 144/80. She did find some tenderness in my rib -- front left to side to back left and told me I had both Costochondritis and Intercostal Neuralgia. I asked her why Medrol (it wasn't quite Prednisone I was taking since my last appointment with her) hadn't been helping with these inflammations, and she said she was puzzled too. It all started about a week ago with a brief shooting pain in my chest and now it's a constant pain in my whole left upper body, including my arm and hand.

She told me to take Advil, etc to see if that will help. If not, she will give me an injection this Friday. When I got home, however, I noticed her instruction sheet said ,"Do Not Take Advil, etc, if you are taking Prednisone or other NSAID." I called her office and left a message, but have not heard from anyone. In the meantime, I called my Internist's office and made an appointment for tomorrow. I just want to make sure other causes for my chest pain be ruled out if necessary.

Have you heard of anyone with AA having these conditions: Costochondritis & Intercostal Nueralgia??? How about any chest pain? I don't know how I got these. Also, I am glad I don't have Lupus, but I still don't know where swelling & joint stiffness come from. Medrol did seem to help with swelling so far. What does or could it mean, then? I didn't think fibromyalgia causes swelling of joints, etc. I am puzzled.

Thanks for listening.

Mitsuyo

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Re:update on How Arach causes pain

Posted by DocSarah - 09 Dec 2005 14:42

Hi Mitsuyo,

joint pains of various types, including costochondral joints (between the ribs and the sternum) are a feature of various conditions including AA.

Taking steroids with NSAIDs is quite common practice for rheumatologists but a note of caution there is an increased risk of gastrointestinal bleeding. That said, I imagine your specialist considers the benefits outweigh the risks.

All the best,

DocSarah

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Re:update on How Arach causes pain

Posted by mitsuyo - 09 Dec 2005 21:37

Dear DocSarah,

It's always so encouraging to read your reply, and again thank you for taking time to read all my posts and to answer them!

I guess the joint pains experienced by those with AA could include any joint, such as fingers, knees, and ankles. I wonder why though.

Also, I didn't think fibromyalgia involved swelling of joints, as it does not cause any inflammation. Since I am not on any medications that could cause swelling, I wonder what caused my swelling, which got better when I started taking Medrol, which is anti-inflammatory medication.

I did see an internist a few days ago and had EKG done, which was normal. My heart does beat fast at resting from time to time, and both she and my rheumatologist said it was fine to take Atenolol as needed. I started taking Motrin on top of Medrol and was told to take medication, like Pepcid, to protect my stomach at the same time. So far, it's not getting better but rather spreading to the right side. Left side pain is more like around lymph node near the armpit, and I do feel like my breast is "engorged" as if I were still nursing. I am going back to my rheumatologist's office on Monday.

Well, I am sorry that I keep coming up with more questions for you. Have a great weekend!

Best regards,

Mitsuyo

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