

Research-Based Case Study

Name: _____

Karen Jackson woke up this morning with paralysis on the left side of her face. She was drooling and her left eye was drooping. Fearing she was having a stroke, her husband rushed her to the emergency room.

Karen explained to the doctor that she didn't notice anything unusual about her face before going to bed last night, but she has had a cold for the past week. Her doctor did a neurologic exam testing her strength and sensation and found that she had no paralysis or neurologic symptoms in her arms or legs. She was diagnosed with Bell's palsy.

Resources for Research:

<https://www.webmd.com/brain/understanding-bells-palsy-basics>

<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/Patient-Caregiver-Education/Fact-Sheets/Bells-Palsy-Fact-Sheet>

<https://www.jems.com/articles/print/volume-39/issue-5/features/differentiating-facial-weakness-caused-b.html>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/bells-palsy/symptoms-causes/syc-20370028>

<https://teachmeanatomy.info/head/cranial-nerves/facial-nerve/>

<https://www.healthline.com/human-body-maps/facial-nerve>

1. What symptoms does Mrs. Jackson have?
2. What causes Bell's palsy? Be specific.
3. Based on the symptoms, name 4 muscles that are affected by Bell's palsy?
4. Since Bell's palsy also affects the production of tears and saliva, which glands are likely disrupted?
5. How common is Bell's palsy?
6. How is the differential diagnosis made for Bell's palsy, as opposed to ischemic stroke?
7. What treatment would Mrs. Jackson's doctor likely recommend and why?