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Autonomic Dysfunction in Post-Infectious States

Clinical interests include autonomic disorders, small fiber neuropathies and the development of effective methods of testing and treating these disorders. Prior work has focused on small fiber painful and autonomic neuropathies; syndromes of orthostatic intolerance and syncope; gastrointestinal motility dysfunction; cyclic vomiting; protacted Gastroesophageal Reflux; non-allergic rhinitis syndromes; and the relationship between the autonomic nervous system and normal or abnormal sleep. Additional areas of interest include the neurology of phonation and swallowing disorders, and peripheral nerve injury and repair.

Conference Lecture Summary

A significant number of patients complain of persistent symptoms following the recovery from an acute infection. Many of the symptoms have a neurologic profile, but often neurologic traditional testing, such as imaging, EEG, evoked potentials, nerve conductions and EMG are either normal or non-contributory. However, quantitative autonomic testing in these patients often reveals abnormalities that shed light on the nature of their symptoms, and guide some of the pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic management. The purpose of
the presentation is to review the current state of art of autonomic testing, and the most common findings in these patients who have persistent, post-infectious symptoms.