

Ramsay Hunt Syndrome: Marked-Up Excerpt

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Excerpts from "What's to know about Ramsay Hunt syndrome?" Medical News Today. Written by Adam Felman. Medically reviewed by Alana Biggers, MD, MPH. Updated July 12, 2023. Edits and comments dated September 27, 2026.

Article text appears as published. ~~Struck text~~ is a suggested deletion. Underlined text is a suggested insertion. Numbers link each edit to its comment.

Article text with tracked edits

Reviewer comments

Recovery

Successful recovery from Ramsay Hunt syndrome is dependent on recognizing and treating symptoms in the first few days. The best way to ensure the fullest possible recovery is to take the drugs acyclovir and prednisolone ~~within 7 days of symptoms starting as soon as possible,~~ ideally within 3 days of the first symptoms.¹ ~~The damage caused by Ramsay Hunt syndrome is reversible.~~ Most people improve, but some keep facial weakness or hearing loss.²

1 · Kelly Stowell

Conflicts with "the first few days" in the sentence before. Outcomes are best when treatment starts inside 72 hours (CDC, 2024). In Murakami's 1997 series of 80 patients, 75% recovered fully when treated within 3 days of facial paralysis. After more than 7 days, 30% did. Suggest 3 days.

2 · Kelly Stowell

Too absolute. Your Complications section describes permanent weakness and hearing loss. In one cohort, only 16% of patients with hearing loss got it all back (Rim et al., 2023).

Treatment

An injection into the upper eyelid of botulinum toxin type A, more commonly known as Botox, may help those who have trouble closing one eye. ~~An eye patch may help protect the affected eye.~~ If the eye does not close fully, use lubricating drops during the day and ointment at night, and tape the lid closed or use a moisture chamber for sleep. Avoid a loose eye patch, which can rub the eye. See a doctor the same day for eye pain, redness or blurred vision.³

3 · Kelly Stowell

This is the only eye advice in the piece. Please add lubrication. A loose patch on an eye that won't close can scratch the cornea. See Baugh et al. (2013), Dalrymple et al. (2023) and the Ramsay Hunt Syndrome Foundation eye care page.

Complications

Complications ~~are rare~~ are less likely⁴ if treatment starts within a few days of the onset of symptoms. ~~A small percentage of~~ Some patients may, however, experience permanent hearing loss and facial weakness even if their treatment was applied quickly and effectively.

4 · Kelly Stowell

Understated. A quarter of early-treated patients still didn't recover fully (Murakami et al., 1997), and about half had hearing loss in one series (Kanerva et al., 2020). Same issue with "a small percentage" in the next sentence.

Clean version with all edits accepted

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Recovery

Successful recovery from Ramsay Hunt syndrome is dependent on recognizing and treating symptoms in the first few days. The best way to ensure the fullest possible recovery is to take the drugs acyclovir and prednisolone as soon as possible, ideally within 3 days of the first symptoms. Most people improve, but some keep facial weakness or hearing loss.

Treatment

An injection into the upper eyelid of botulinum toxin type A, more commonly known as Botox, may help those who have trouble closing one eye. If the eye does not close fully, use lubricating drops during the day and ointment at night, and tape the lid closed or use a moisture chamber for sleep. Avoid a loose eye patch, which can rub the eye. See a doctor the same day for eye pain, redness or blurred vision.

Complications

Complications are less likely if treatment starts within a few days of the onset of symptoms. Some patients may, however, experience permanent hearing loss and facial weakness even if their treatment was applied quickly and effectively.

The companion clinical review of this article has all nine findings and the references.

Writing sample prepared for demonstration. Not peer reviewed or published.