

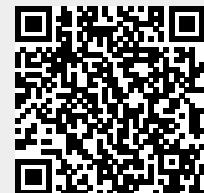
Many **ablative procedures** are effective for **hemifacial spasm** (HFS) (including sectioning of divisions of the **facial nerve**), however, this leaves the patient with some degree of facial paresis. The current procedure of choice for HFS is **microvascular decompression** (MVD) wherein the offending **vessel** is physically moved off of the nerve, and a **sponge** (e.g. **Ivalon®**, polyvinyl formyl alcohol foam) is interposed as a **cushion**. Other cushions may not prove to be as satisfactory (**muscle** may disappear, and **Teflon** felt may thin<sup>1)</sup>.

1)

Rhoton AL. Comment on Payner T D and Tew J M: Recurrence of Hemifacial Spasm After Microvascular Decompression. Neurosurgery. 1996; 38

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