

# Ivalon

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>.

Synthetic materials, such as [Teflon](#) or Ivalon sponges have also been associated with a direct subsequent neurovascular compression by the same vessel because of a slipped prosthesis <sup>2)</sup>.

Compression of the trigeminal root entry zone, caused by the prosthesis itself or by severe adhesions, has been reported by several authors <sup>3) 4)</sup>, and even indirect vascular compression caused by fairly hard implants like Ivalon has been reported <sup>5) 6)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

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

<sup>2)</sup>

Liao JJ, Cheng WC, Chang CN, Yang JT, Wei KC, Hsu YH, Lin TK. Reoperation for recurrent trigeminal neuralgia after microvascular decompression. Surg Neurol. 1997 Jun;47(6):562-8; discussion 568-70. PubMed PMID: 9167781.

<sup>3)</sup>

Cho DY, Chang CG, Wang YC, Wang FH, Shen CC, Yang DY. Repeat operations in failed microvascular decompression for trigeminal neuralgia. Neurosurgery. 1994 Oct;35(4):665-9; discussion 669-70. PubMed PMID: 7808609.

<sup>4)</sup>

Yamaki T, Hashi K, Niwa J, Tanabe S, Nakagawa T, Nakamura T, Uede T, Tsuruno T. Results of reoperation for failed microvascular decompression. Acta Neurochir (Wien). 1992;115(1-2):1-7. PubMed PMID: 1595390.

<sup>5)</sup>

Goya T, Wakisaka S, Kinoshita K. Microvascular decompression for trigeminal neuralgia with special reference to delayed recurrence. Neurol Med Chir (Tokyo). 1990 Jul;30(7):462-7. PubMed PMID: 1701856.

<sup>6)</sup>

Jannetta PJ, Bissonette DJ. Management of the failed patient with trigeminal neuralgia. Clin Neurosurg. 1985;32:334-47. Review. PubMed PMID: 3905144.

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