FACIAL NERVE PROBLEMS AND BELL’S PALSY
Dr. Dana Viviana Sala,
Dr. Ciprian Venter, Dr. Oana Valenas, ENT Emergency Hospital Oradea Romania, 2015

ABSTRACT
The facial nerve is a nerve that controls the muscles on the side of the face. It allows to show expression, smile, cry and wink. Injury to the facial nerve can cause a socially and psychologically devastating physical defect. Although most cases resolve spontaneously, treatment may ultimately require extensive rehabilitation or multiple procedures.

SYMPTOMS
- facial pain
- headaches or dizziness
- earaches, tinnitus, sensitivity to sound
- difficulty talking
- inability to express emotion
- difficulty eating or drinking
- drooling
- muscle twitching
- tearing of the eye
- dryness of the eye and mouth

CAUSES
- Bell’s palsy
- skull fracture or injury to the face
- head or neck tumour
- stroke
- chronic middle ear infection or other ear damage
- high blood pressure
- diabetes
- Lyme disease, a bacterial disease transmitted to humans by a tick bite
- Ramsay-Hunt Syndrome, a viral infection of the facial nerve
- autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis, which affects the brain and spinal cord, and Guillain-Barre syndrome, which affects the nervous system

TREATMENT
Most people with Bell's palsy recover fully — with or without treatment. There’s no one-size-fits-all treatment for Bell's palsy, but your doctor may suggest medications or physical therapy to help speed your recovery. Surgery is rarely an option for Bell's palsy.

Medications: corticosteroids, antiviral drugs

Physical therapy: Paralyzed muscles can shrink and shorten, causing permanent contractures. A physical therapist can teach you how to massage and exercise your facial muscles to help prevent this from occurring

- Eye lubrication
- Plastic surgery - this can improve the appearance and symmetry of the face

REFERENCES
1. Quinn FB. Facial Nerve Paralysis. Department of Otolaryngology 1996
2. Rath B, Linder T, Comblath D. All That Palsies is not Bell’s – The Need to Define Bell’s Palsy as an Adverse event following immunization. Elsevier. 2007; 20:1-14