gustatory sweating

2011-08-11 14:40 by Dietmar Stattkus (comments: 0)

Strong sweating when eating is often also the appearance of symptomatic hyperhidrosis. A special form of this hyperhidrosis phenomena is the so called gustatory sweating, also known as Frey's syndrome. In the literature and from the medical experience is known that this syndrome is more common in men, in women it's the so-called flushing (sudden facial, neck or chest redness). The problem may last a lifetime. The syndrome can be congenital, or be a result of birth trauma.

This abnormal form of sweating extends zonally to skin areas of the face (malar region), neck or shoulders and the consumption of any food or generally provoked by taste stimuli such as chewing, biting or tasting. Or even the thought of a conversation about food can trigger this form of sweating.

This phenomenon of transpiration is usually completely independently of the diet composition and kind of food. Due to its development it is usually neurogenic, because of nervous conditions, and can lead to be extreme stress for the patient. The peculiarity of gustatory sweating may also be a physiologically induced hyperhidrosis, which becomes evident in particular in that the sweat runs strikingly symmetrical. The reason for this is a taste sweating misdirection (neural short circuit) of nerve fibers and pulses. Nerves, which are initially stimulate the secretion of saliva, are after a trauma, infectious diseases or surgery (removal or partial removal of the parotid gland, parotidectomy) tied up in the process of regeneration of previously damaged nerve fibers in sympathetic nerves that control sweat.

In simple words, the via acetylcholine-driven nerve impulses have also lost their primary target organ of salivary gland and are now connected to the sweat glands.

Neurosurgical interventions to address the sweating like endoscopic transthoracic sympathectomy can be associated with some side effects. It can, for example, manifest because of the neuronal migration postoperative reaction in the form of gustatory sweating, which would be for the suffering patients as an additional or new strain and prove therefore to be counterproductive, because the avoidance of sweating was, after all, the original treatment goal.