What are the symptoms of Femoral Nerve Damage?

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The femoral nerve is present in leg and provides assistance in the leg straightening action. Sensation to the thigh front and lower leg is provided by femoral nerve. Pelvic fracture is the major problem associated with this nerve. In case the femoral nerve is damaged, it is indicated by weakness in leg or impaired movement or sensation of leg. Recovery is possible if the exact reason for femoral nerve dysfunction is diagnosed.

What are the causes of femoral nerve damage?

Femoral nerve damage condition due to local cause is termed as mononeuropathy. In case the injury is direct the femoral nerve can get severely damaged. Dysfunction of nerve occurs when too much pressure is exerted on the nerve for longer period. Sometimes the nerve gets entrapped or compressed by the surrounding portions of body or even by outer growths like tumor or abscesses. This too can lead to damage. Suppressed nerve does not get adequate oxygen and hence its functioning is disrupted. Less supply of oxygen and blood to the nerve can lead to many grave health complications. Sometimes the whole body is affected due to problem in the functioning of femoral nerve. Mononeuritis multiplex is the femoral nerve dysfunction due to systemic disorder of femoral nerve. Entrapment of femoral nerve also damages myelin sheath or axons (nerve fibers). Due to this the impulses are not passed on properly via nerve. If pelvic bone is broken, femoral nerve can get damaged. Even if tight waist belts are used, femoral nerve and its related branches are compressed due to which there can be abdominal bleeding. Catheter insertion in groin or lying with thighs and legs stretched too far during the surgical procedure too can damage femoral nerve. In a diabetic patient peripheral neuropathy can cause femoral nerve damage.

What are the symptoms of femoral nerve dysfunction?

The intensity of damage to the nerve decides the symptoms. Some of the common symptoms are:
- Weakness in leg or knee
- Reduced sensation in leg, knee or thigh area
- Changes in sensation in knee, leg, inner calf and thigh
- Burning sensation in thigh, leg or knee
- Total numbness in thigh, knee or leg
- Knee buckling
- Pain in femoral nerve
- Difficulty while straightening knee
- Difficulty during bending leg or knee
- Reduction or total absence in knee reflex
- Problem while ascending or descending stairs

What is the treatment for femoral nerve damage?

MRI scan are usually used to find out lesions and tumors in femoral nerve. Femoral nerve damage is also diagnosed by using nerve conduction test and electromyography. Sometimes even other tests like blood test, X-ray are prescribed. In severe conditions patients are required to take assistance for enhancing mobility. Removal of tumors, corticosteroid injections for treating inflammation and swelling and pain killers to control pain are also some of the treatments.

How is femoral nerve block attained?

Femoral nerve block is made possible by injecting anesthetic into groin and is performed during surgical procedure concerned with upper leg, knee or hip. Femoral nerve block makes it possible to block the connected nerves extending towards hips. This allows for reduced pain and better mobility. The injection is usually performed by anesthesiologist or surgeon under sterile conditions.

External References

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