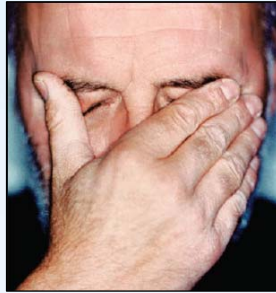


CAUSE

Pseudobulbar affect (PBA) is a neurologic disorder that causes involuntary and unpredictable episodes of crying, laughing, or other emotional displays. PBA impacts people diagnosed with neurologic diseases and brain injuries, and may occur when disease or injury damages the area of the brain that controls normal expression of emotion. This damage can disrupt brain signaling causing a “short circuit,” triggering episodes of involuntary emotional expressions.



DIAGNOSIS

PBA is a distinct neurologic disorder, which can be diagnosed and treated separately from a person’s underlying neurologic disease or brain injury. Experiencing unpredictable, involuntary emotional displays caused by PBA can cause anxiety and embarrassment, particularly in public settings. For some people, these episodes can be so disruptive that they avoid social situations. This sometimes results in isolation, which can appear to be a sign of depression. As a result, PBA is frequently misdiagnosed. In contrast to depression, PBA episodes are often sudden, unpredictable, and contrary to the person’s mood. Some people have both depression and PBA.

DEMOGRAPHICS

PBA can occur in people diagnosed with neurologic conditions such as multiple sclerosis (MS), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson’s disease, dementias such as Alzheimer’s disease, and neurologic injuries including stroke and traumatic brain injury. It is estimated that PBA impacts more than 1 million people in the United States alone.



TREATMENT

Presently no medications have been approved by the FDA for the treatment of PBA. Current therapy often consists of the off-label use of anti-depressants and anti-psychotics. However, the safety and efficacy of these agents in PBA have not been evaluated in clinical trials. New agents designed specifically for the treatment of PBA are needed. Avanir Pharmaceuticals is investigating the efficacy and tolerability of an investigational new drug called Zenvia™ as a treatment for PBA. Zenvia has not been approved for use by the FDA.



For more information go to www.PBAinfo.org