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# HICCUPS: AN ATYPICAL PRESENTATION OF LATERAL MEDULLARY SYNDROME

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Persistent hiccup related to lateral medullary syndrome is rarely reported as usually it resembles other gastrointestinal abnormality. It is often overlooked and can cause aspiration pneumonia.

**Methods:** We report a case of an elderly man who presented with persistent hiccups and later diagnosed to have lateral medullary syndrome.

**Results:** 73-year-old Malay male presented with desaturation and persistent hiccups. On further history, he complained of giddiness, right sided body weakness and recurrent choking episode. On clinical examination, he was found to have right sided Horner syndrome, right ataxia and left sided sensory loss and dysphagia. CT Brain showed multifocal lacunar infarctions. Due to suspicious of posterior circulation stroke, urgent MRI was done and showed features of acute right lateral medullary infarction with small haemorrhagic transformation most likely due to arterial thrombus within the right vertebral artery. He was treated for ischemic stroke and aspiration pneumonia.

**Conclusion:** Persistent hiccups is one of unique presentation that can occur in a case of lateral medullary syndrome. It was postulate that there is denervation super sensitivity due to palatal myoclonus in this group of patients.