

Wallenberg Syndrome (PICA Syndrome)



PLAY PICMONIC

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Compromise of PICA

[PIC\(k\)-CAn](#)

Wallenberg Syndrome, also called Lateral Medullary Syndrome, arises from compromise to the posterior inferior cerebellar artery, or PICA.

Lateral Medullary Ischemia

[Ladder Medusa Ice-ski-mask](#)

Because of the territory irrigated by PICA, the region affected in a stroke of this artery is the lateral medulla. As such, the affected structures are the vestibular nuclei, the trigeminal nuclei, the spinothalamic tract, the nucleus ambiguus, the inferior cerebellar peduncle, and the descending sympathetic fibers

CLINICAL FEATURES

Vertigo

[Vertigo-vortex](#)

The compromise of the vestibular nuclei in lateral medullary syndrome can cause vertigo.

Nystagmus

[Nostradamus](#)

The compromise of the vestibular nuclei in lateral medullary syndrome can cause nystagmus.

Nausea and Vomiting

[Vomiting](#)

Compromise of the vestibular nuclei can cause nausea and vomiting.

Loss of Pain and Temperature in the Ipsilateral Face

[No-sign Pain-bolts and Thermometer on One-side of Face](#)

The compromise of the trigeminal nuclei causes loss of pain and temperature sensations in the ipsilateral side of the face.

Loss of Pain and Temperature Sensation in the Contralateral Limbs

[No-sign Pain-bolt and Thermometer on Opposite-side Limbs](#)

Compromise of the spinothalamic tract causes loss of pain and temperature sensation in the contralateral side of the trunk and extremities.

Dysphagia

[Dice-fajita](#)

Because the nucleus ambiguus houses motor neurons for cranial nerves IX and X, its compromise can cause dysphagia.

Dysarthria and Dysphonia

[Slurred Speech-Bubble and Hoarseness](#)

Because the nucleus ambiguus houses motor neurons for cranial nerves IX and X, its compromise can cause dysarthria and dysphonia.

Loss of Gag Reflex

[No-sign Gaggling](#)

When the nucleus ambiguus is affected, there is a loss of the gag reflex.

Ipsilateral Horner Syndrome

[Horny Pam](#)

When the descending sympathetic fibers are affected in Wallenberg Syndrome, Ipsilateral Horner Syndrome is seen.

Ipsilateral Ataxia and Dysmetria, as well as Dysdiadochokinesia

[One-side A-taxi with Broken-ruler and Broken-moving-kite](#)

Damage to the inferior cerebellar peduncle causes ipsilateral ataxia and dysmetria. It also causes dysdiadochokinesia, the inability to perform rapid, alternating muscle movements such as closing and opening the fists.