Myasthenia gravis in Melanesians in the Solomon islands.

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Myasthenia gravis is a rare neuromuscular disease believed to be due to an autoimmune reaction affecting the neuromuscular junction. Two cases occurring in Melanesians of the Solomon Islands are described. Standard treatment includes anticholinesterase medication, and corticosteroids may be required for severe disease. Thymectomy, and plasmapharesis together with immunosuppressive therapy are other measures that may be considered in severe, refractory or generalised disease. Treatment is unlikely to be satisfactory in this Melanesian society where patients are irregular in taking medication and in attending hospital.

PMID: 6945775, UI: 82042276