



Guillain-Barré Syndrome and BBE

Source: IE

Pune reported a case of **Bickerstaff's Brainstem Encephalitis (BBE)**, a rare variant of **Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS)**.

- **GBS:** It is a rare **neurological disorder** where the body's immune system attacks the **peripheral nervous system (PNS)** (controls muscle movement and sensory functions).
 - **Symptoms:** Range from mild weakness to severe paralysis, including breathing difficulties.
 - **Treatment:** No known cure for GBS. **Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG)**, derived from healthy blood donations, can aid in recovery.
- **BBE:** It is a rare, rapidly progressive, **post-infectious neurological disorder** where the **brainstem becomes inflamed**.
 - **Symptoms:** **Mild respiratory infections** or **diarrheal illness**, ataxia (loss of muscle control), ophthalmoplegia (paralysis of eye muscles), and weakness of limbs.
 - **Treatment:** **IVIG** is commonly used to treat the condition.
- **BBE and GBS:** BBE affects the **central nervous system (CNS)**, while GBS impacts the PNS.
 - BBE is caused by an **autoimmune response** (the body's immune system attacks its own tissues) after an infection, while GBS is triggered by infection, vaccination, or surgery.
- **Precautions:** Precautions for BBE and GBS include getting the flu vaccine, practicing hygiene, and seeking immediate medical help for neurological symptoms like weakness or numbness.

Read more: [Guillain-Barre Syndrome](#)

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