SUMMARY

Introduction: Idiopathic facial nerve paresis still remains a challenge for laryngologists and neurologists. The etiology of idiopathic peripheral facial nerve paresis has not been explained so far. There is a group of patients that complain about coexisting hearing abnormalities.

Aim: Analysis of audiological abnormalities in patients with idiopathic peripheral facial nerve paresis on the basis of pure tone audiometry and auditory brainstem responses.

Material and methods: The retrospective analysis of 35 patients, aged less than 40 years, with idiopathic peripheral facial nerve paresis hospitalized in Department of Otolaryngology of Warsaw Medical University – Poland (2004–2009). Control group consisted of age-matched, 23 healthy subjects. Each patient underwent audiometric evaluation that included pure tone audiometry and auditory brainstem responses. Statistical analysis was performed with Student’s t-test.

Results: In the analysed group of 35 patients (17 male + 18 female), age ranged 13–40 years (mean 26.7 ± 7.1) significantly prolonged latencies of wave III and V and III–V and I–V intervals in comparison with control group where observed (p<0.05). We found also that 48.6% patients with idiopathic peripheral facial nerve paresis had high-frequency hearing loss.

Conclusions: The auditory brainstem responses in this study showed an association between retrocochlear pathology of the auditory system and idiopathic peripheral facial nerve paresis. Further investigations are necessary to estimate the etiopathology of these coexisting abnormalities.

Hasła indeksowe: porażenie nerwu twarzowego, potencjały słuchowe z pnia mózgu, audiometria tonalna

Key words: idiopathic facial nerve paresis, auditory brainstem responses, pure tone audiometry