The patient was a 67 year old White female with multiple subcutaneous nodules which secondarily became infected. Severe osteoarthritis with multiple compression fractures of the vertebrae, anemia and a peripheral neuropathy were also present. In October, 1976, the patient developed a right sixth nerve palsy. A left sixth nerve palsy then was noted at the beginning of February, 1977. Both the right and left sixth nerve palsy persisted until death, approximately two weeks later in mid-February, 1977. The patient died of pneumonia and a pulmonary embolus.

MATERIALS SUBMITTED: The slide was obtained from the 6th cranial nerve.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Differential diagnosis.

2. What are the other possible primary and secondary effects of this disease process on the nervous system?