Matters arising


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Isoniazid and action tremor in multiple sclerosis

Sir: I was pleased to see the letter from Morrow et al1 confirming some utility for isoniazid for postural action tremor in multiple sclerosis even though my name was badly misspelled in their reference to our work.2 There have been a number of discrepant reports about isoniazid, and I suspect that a major reason has been lack of attention to the precise type of tremor being treated. The patients described by Morrow et al are similar to the ones that we have studied; confirmation of efficacy in a double-blind trial is now in press.3

I was particularly interested in the findings of Morrow et al about weakness and increase of spasticity with isoniazid. We have seen this also in a few patients who have primarily complained of increased “stiffness” of their legs. One patient was bothered enough by this stiffness that he decided to stop taking the isoniazid after a few months even though his tremor was diminished by the drug. We have not made any physiological studies of this symptom. I have taken this phenomenon as further evidence that isoniazid influences the motor system, and that its effect on tremor is not purely psychological.

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References


Notice

International Congress for Clinical Neuroimaging will be held in Vienna, 5-7 June 1986. Information may be obtained from: Secretariat International Congress for Clinical Neuroimaging, c/o Vienna Academy of Medicine, Alser Straße 4, A-1090 Vienna, Austria.