Matters arising

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Matters arising

Isoniazid and action tremor in multiple sclerosis

Sir: I was pleased to see the letter from Morrow *et al*¹ 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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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.