potential for spontaneous recovery; more severely disabled patients were also by chance randomised to active treatment in this group.

Physiotherapy was offered only to patients in the relapse group, but since almost every individual receiving iv MP was discharged from hospital after one week, in practice none was treated in this way. Conversely, controls remained longer in hospital and received physiotherapy; if physical treatment improves disability during relapse this arrangement will have underestimated the effect of iv MP during acute relapse. Some patients in the chronic progressive group were receiving muscle relaxants at presentation and these were maintained throughout the trial; no new treatments were introduced until after the assessment at one month.

We accept that there are limitations in the design and size of this study, but our practice is now to use iv MP on an open basis during relapse and as a means of reducing motor disability in patients with chronic progressive disease.

Reference


The advances in microprocessors and their cheap memories have made quantitative EEG more accessible but, as the chapter on computer analysis in epilepsy concludes, there is a fair way to go before a totally error free automatic detection of specific EEG patterns (eg. epileptiform activity) is possible, thereby making the analysis completely objective. Another technique only made practical with computer databases is neurometrics which provides a statistical comparison of patient data with a large normative database. This is comprehensive and covered for both EEG and evoked potentials. The chapter on sensory potentials actually provides a normative database gathered from a large number of published studies. New techniques in the estimation of evoked potentials and their source localisation using large electrode arrays and potential maps have been evaluated in terms of their practical value. This chapter concludes that the role of computers in the study of topographic maps is limited to the generation as the analysis is generally still subjective. The chapter on signals of consciousness highlights the hypotheses and models of psychological processes associated with various event related potential peaks. As in the past, technological advancement and the transfer to the study of electrophysiology will lead to a better understanding of the underlying neurophysiological processes. In this regard this volume provides an excellent account of the computer based analysis and applications of EEG and EMG as practised at present but I feel that insufficient emphasis has been given to evoked potentials.

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This is a monograph on diabetic neuropathy.