Objectives In this study we compared the clinical findings and some provocative tests (Tinel, Phalen, reverse phalen) with electrophysiological examination (ENMG) results.

Methods This study was carried out on 48 patients who had pain, numbness, tingling and weakness complaints in at least one hand. Provocative tests and ENMG investigation were applied for each patient whom suspected for carpal tunnel syndrome.

67 hands of 48 patients which represent positive sign for carpal tunnel syndrome were evaluated and compared with ENMG positivity. In order to evaluate validity of provocative tests, chi-square test was used. Positive-negative predictive values of provocative tests also investigated.

Results 20 patients had bilateral complaints, 28 patients had complaints only in one hand. When compared with ENMG results, reverse Phalen test was founded most spesific test (% 78.8). This was followed by Tinel test%72.3 and Phalen test% 70.2.

Conclusion We concluded that provocative tests for ENMG have increased sensitivity, for that reason can be applied in epidemiological studies for carpal tunnel syndrome. But to make an definite diagnosis of carpal tunnel syndrome electrophysiological examination should be applied.

REFERENCES

- Shin JO. Clinical electromyography (Nerve conduction studies), 2nd edn. Baltimore Maryland-USA 21202, 1993
- White JC, Hansen SR, Johnson RK. A comparison of EMG procedures in the carpal tunnel syndrome with clinical-EMG correlations. *Muscle Nerve* 1998;11:1177-82

FRI0246 THE IMPACT SOCIAL, LABOUR AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OF THE CHRONIC LOW BACK PAIN

FP Torres, D Ybañez-García, P Pérez-Caballero, M Morales, A Llópis. *Rheumatology, Hospital General Requena, Requena, Spain*

10.1136/annrheumdis-2001.567

Background

Objectives To determine the social and psychological impact that exercises the chronic lumbar pain on the affected population.

Methods We carry out a longitudinal study with patients that demand attendance for low back pain (LBP). The selected patients were interviewed to determine if the pain exercised influences on their work, familiar life, sports, their economy and their social life. To determine the psychological impact it was valued which was the most important concern for the patient, the originated pain, the lesion or disablement, taking an abnormal life, the progressive worsening, the deformity, the lost of work or he didn't have concern.

Results They were carried out a total of 485 interviews. They presented repercussion on their job 377 patient (77.7%), family repercussion 218 (44.9%), social repercussion 154 (31.8%), economic repercussion 107 (22.1%) and sport 309 (63.7%). Psychologically they had some type of concern 340 cases (70.3%) and they didn't have any concern 145 (29.7%), it was the pain what more worried to a total of 125 (25.8%), not being able to carry out a normal life at 92 (19%); the progressive worsening and the disability worried to 10% of cases each one of them, being the deformity and the work loss what less worried 0.6% and 4.5% respectively.

Conclusion

- The most important repercussion in the LBP is the labour one and the less important one is the economic repercussion.
- The DLC worries majority of patients.

- The most important concerns for the patients were the own pain and not being able to carry out a normal life: what less worried it was the work loss and the acquisition of a deformity.

REFERENCES

- Silman AL, Papageorgin AC, Thomas E, Croft PR, Jayson M, Mcfarlane GJ. Work activities and psychological factors as predictors of future back pain. *Arthritis Rheum.* 1996;39:1.694
- Reumatos 907. Estudio sociosanitario sobre las enfermedades reumáticas en España. Gabinete de estudios Pfizer y Liga Reumatologica Española, 1992

FRI0247 SHOULDER'S ADHESIVE CAPSULITIS. TREATMENT BY SUPRASCAPULAR NERVE BLOCK

¹R Ghazlan, ¹M Dupuis, ¹C Lecarpentier, ²D Safa. ¹Rheumatology Service; ²Radiology Service, Hôpital Européen de Paris La Roseraie, Aubervilliers, France

10.1136/annrheumdis-2001.568

Background A new approach for the management of frozen shoulder associated with adhesive capsulitis is presented.

Objectives The choice of blockade of the suprascapular nerve is a new concept for the management of the frozen shoulder. This is based on the fact that the nerve contains a high proportion of sensitive fibres supplying the shoulder joint.

Methods 11 patients with adhesive capsulitis have been referred to us: women 9, men 2; mean age 55,5 years; mean duration of the disease 7,2 months.

All the patients had failed to prior treatment.

A suprascapular nerve block with anaesthetic solution and corticosteroid injection was performed by needle insertion through the suprascapular notch: behind the lateral end of the clavicle at its junction with the insertion of the trapezius muscle.

Results Evaluation of the efficacy was achieved by comparing subjective pain and passive range of movement before and after the first block and after the final one.

The block was repeated once weekly with a mean of 3 treatments.

Relief of the pain has been noted in 8 of 11 patients.

Conclusion This approach seems a new, non invasive and painless treatment of the adhesive capsulitis of the shoulder.

FRI0248 MYASTHENIA GRAVIS AFTER HEPATITIS B VACCINE. REPORT OF ONE CASE

ME Bahri, B Louzir, S Othmani, R Battikh, MO Bahri. *Internal Medicine Service, Military Hospital of Tunis, Tunis, Tunisia*

10.1136/annrheumdis-2001.569

Background

Objectives

Methods Myasthenia gravis (MG) is a chronic, organ-specific auto-immune disease in which anti-R-ach antibodies are considered responsible for muscle weakness. Among triggering or worsening factors, drugs were often involved. However, very little is known about the role of vaccine. Triggering MG by anti-hepatitis B vaccination was previously reported in 3 cases. We report here one new case. A 46-year old asthmatic woman without previous history of neuromuscular disorder presented in November 1995 with dyspnea, dysphonia, bilateral palpebral ptosis, difficulty of mastication and swallowing and, proximal weakness presenting at noon and with exercise, one month after second dose of plasma-derived recombinant hepatitis B vaccine (H-B-VAX II,