CO36-002-e
Efficacy of the neuro-orthopaedic surgery for spastic equinovarus foot after stroke. A prospective longitudinal study based on the ICF model
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Keywords: Hemiplegia; Muscle spasticity; Neurotomy; Tendon lengthening

Background.– To assess the efficacy of the tibial neurotomy, tibialis anterior tendon transfer and/or achille and long toe flexor tendons lengthening in association for spastic equinovarus foot (SEF) after stroke based on the 3 domains of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).

Methods.– Eighteen stroke patients with SEF were assessed before, 2 months and 1 year after surgery. The body function and structure (SIAS, gait speed and video, walking aids, spasticity, strenght, ROM), activities (FAC, FWC, ABILOCO) and quality of life (SATISPART, SF-36) were assessed.

Results.– A decrease in spasticity and pain, an increase in ankle range of motion, an improvement in equinus and varus and in gait speed and a reduction in walking aids were observed. Activity, participation and quality of life were not significantly modified.

Conclusions.– This study confirms the efficacy of the neuro-orthopaedic surgical treatment of SEF after stroke to reduce the impairments while the activity, participation and quality of life remain unchanged.

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Effects of tibial nerve neurotomy on posture and gait in stroke patients
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Keywords: Neurotomy; Spasticity; Equinovarus foot; Stroke; Gait; Posture

Background.– To evaluate objective and subjective functional effect of tibial nerve neurotomy (TNN) in post-stroke equinovarus foot.

Methods.– Fourteen patients were assessed before and 4 months after TNN by the Posture and Gait-Impairments and Activities for Stroke Patients scale (PG-IASP), allowing an ecological-like assessment of the main impairments and activities of posture and gait, both by the patient and the examiner. We also analyzed analytical (spasticity), instrumental (baropodometry, videographic gait analysis) and functional parameters (NFAC, Rivermead Mobility Index (RMI)) of posture and gait.

Results.– After TNN, patients reported an improvement in posture and gait impairments (P=0.002), mainly for distal limb deformities, and a functional improvement in daily living (P=0.014). NFAC and RMI scores were not modified. Walking speed in the rapid condition (P=0.036) and ankle kinematics were improved. Baropodometric analysis showed a significant increase of heel bearing.

Conclusions.– TNN leads to a patients’ self-perceived improvement in daily living postural and gait activities, more important than revealed by “objective” assessments.

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Spastic distortion in flexion of the elbow after stroke: Anatomic localization of the motor nerve branch of the brachialis
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Keywords: Brachialis muscle; Motor nerve block; Elbow flexion; Spasticity; Hemiplegic

Background.– The aim of this study is to identify the anatomical surface landmarks of the brachialis motor nerve to fresh adult cadaver upper limbs (n=20).

Methods.– Four measurements were taken of the position of the brachial motor branch from the medial epicondylo to the coracoid process (d0); to the exit point of the brachialis motor branch from the musculocutaneous trunk (d1); to the entry point of the brachialis motor branch into the muscle (d2) and "r" the depth of the nerve.

Results.– The brachial nerve of 6 men and 4 females (age range 68 to 84y) were identified. The mean of distances were: d1 (155±10.5 mm); d2 (102±17.9 mm) and r (28.8±4.84 mm). The ratio between d2 and d0 (d2/d0) was (34.1%±0.05%) and the course of the branch that could be blocked specifically (d1–d2) (53±13.7 mm). In practice, this represents a landmark skin through a hand above the medial epicondyle, just behind the biceps brachii belly.

Conclusions.– This localization of the brachialis motor nerve should help in the performance of nerve blocks to assess the role of each elbow flexor in the spastic flexion distortion of hemiplegic patients.

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CO36-005-e
Spasticity care in the elderly: Retrospective analysis in a physical medicine and rehabilitation department
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Keywords: Spasticity; Elderly; Botulinum toxin; Stroke

Background.– Study of clinical practice in spasticity care in the elderly in a PMR department.

Methods.– Retrospective study over 5 years (2009–2013) of patients over 80 referred to a PMR department for disabling spasticity. Aetiologies of spasticity, clinical presentation, strategy of care and tolerance of treatment were reported.

Results.– Fifty-nine patients (mean age 83.7) were reported. 59% presented with spastic hemiplegia. Spasticity was caused by stroke (59%), hereditary spastic paraplegia (10%), multiple sclerosis (8%), amyotrophic or primitive lateral sclerosis (4%). Then, 57% patients were treated with botulinum toxin injections, 12% underwent surgery. The aim of the treatment was mostly functional improvement. Follow-up was 3 years for 15% of patients, 53% are still followed, 43% are dead or lost of view one year after the first visit.

Conclusions.– Treatment of spasticity is useful and well tolerated in elderly patients over 80. Therefore, they should be more largely referred to PMR units specialized in spasticity.

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CO36-006-e
Initial results from the international double-blind phase III study of Dysport® in the treatment of adults with upper limb spasticity