

HAND TREMOR IN DYSTONIC PATIENTS

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Background: Hand tremor is a relatively frequent sign in focal dystonia, but so far there is no study concerning tremor asymmetry in dystonic patients (DP).

Objectives: To assess tremor characteristics in clinical evaluation in DP.

Methods: 27 DP were included: 12 with torticollis and 15 with blepharospasm. Severity of dystonic symptoms and disability were assessed by Toronto Scale in torticollis and by Jankovic Rating Scale in blepharospasm.

Severity of hand tremor was assessed by Simple Tremor Severity Scale and disability by Tremor Functional Scale.

Results: In clinical assessment tremor was found in 45% of DP. 45.7% with torticollis and 50% with blepharospasm. Characteristic peak of tremor in DP appeared in left hand: 9.8% with torticollis and 5.9% with blepharospasm and in 37.2% in right hand.

19.6% with torticollis and 17.6% with blepharospasm. Asymmetrical tremor occurred in 25.5% of DP: 9.8% with torticollis and 15.7% with blepharospasm.

Symmetrical tremor occurred in 13.7% of DP: 9.8% with torticollis and 3.9% with blepharospasm.

Asymmetrical tremor was significantly more frequent in right hand than left one ($p=0,0008$).

The groups with symmetrical and asymmetrical tremor did not differ in sex or age.

The same tremor dominant frequency in both groups was found. Tremor amplitude and intensity were significantly lower in asymmetrical group ($p=0,006$, and $p=0,001$, respectively).

There were no significant differences in Tremor Functional Scale in both groups.

Conclusions: Asymmetrical tremor in DP is more frequent than symmetrical, predominating in the right hand and is characterized by lower amplitude and intensity.