

## **SPASTICITY MUST BE TREATED: NO**

**L. Saltuari**

*Neurological Department for Rehabilitation Hochzirl, Austria*

[leopold.saltuari@tilak.at](mailto:leopold.saltuari@tilak.at)

Spasticity as one component of the upper motor neuron syndrome can also be interpreted as the most elementary form of motor control. The inhibition of spasticity can sometimes reduce discomfort and promote more complex motor ability. However, oral and intrathecal antispastic treatment is often accompanied by serious side effects such as reduction of vigilance and cognitive processing, which interfere with the cooperation of the patient during the rehabilitation process. On the other hand, various antispastic drugs lead to muscle weakness and also influence vegetative parameters such as bladder control and bowel mobility. The increase of paresis and fatigue must also be considered when using focal antispastic treatment. Prior to commencing antispastic treatment all of these factors should be considered, and the decision pro treatment should not be taken lightly.