

### Eosinophilia-myalgia syndrome: a clinical case series of 21 patients

Philen RM, Eidson M, Kilbourne EM, Sewell CM, Voorhees R.  
Arch Intern Med 1991; 151:533-537.

We reviewed 21 cases of eosinophilia-myalgia syndrome to describe the range of clinical findings in these patients. Most patients were women (20 [95%]) and middle-aged (mean, 46 years) and had taken the food supplement L-tryptophan (95%). All cases involved eosinophilia (eosinophil count  $\geq 2.0 \times 10^9/L$ ) and incapacitating myalgias. Fourteen (88%) of the 16 patients tested had mild liver function abnormalities. Aldolase levels were abnormal in all patients tested. Muscle biopsies were done in five patients; four showed eosinophilic perimyositis, and one had interstitial inflammation. No physical finding was pathognomonic or universal, but muscle tenderness, tachycardia, and rash were the most common signs found during physical examinations. Seven patients were treated with prednisone, and six showed improvement in muscle pain and a decrease in eosinophilia. The cause of this disorder is still unknown.

### Complicated migraine: a study of seven cases

Arroyo S, Sanchez-Portocarrero J, Barquero S, Garcia-Urra D, Varela-de-Seijas E. Neurologia 1990; 5:125-129.

It has been assumed that 50 percent of strokes in patients below the age of 45 are due to migraine. Seven patients with migraine associated infarction were studied. Angiography was carried-out in five patients and arterial occlusion was demonstrated in one. The relevant pathogenic mechanisms are not yet understood. Most studies have found that much less than 50 percent of strokes in the young are attributable to migraine.

### Ischaemic cerebral infarction in young adults

Federico F, Calvario T, Di-Turi N, Paradiso F.  
Acta Neuro (Napoli) 1990; 12:101-108.

In 56 patients aged 17 to 45 who had ischemic cerebral infarction, the etiology was determined in all but six; migraine was thought to be the cause in two patients. A follow-up, 80 percent had very little residual motor deficit but only 43 percent were able to return to previous work.

### An assessment of disability rating scales used in multiple sclerosis

Francis DA, Bain P, Swan VA, Hughes RAC.  
Arch Neurol 1991; 48:299-301.

Twenty patients with clinically definite, stable multiple sclerosis were examined independently by three of us at the same visit and given scores on the Ambulation Index, Expanded Disability Status Scale, and Kurtzke Functional System scales. Observer error accounted for 12% to 55% of the variation observed between individual Kurtzke Functional

System scores, 17.1% of the variation observed between the patients' Expanded Disability Status Scale scores, and only 3.9% of the variation between Ambulation Index scores. The implications of these findings for the choice of scales in clinical trials are described.

### Ischemic stroke in young adults

#### II. Analysis of risk factors in the etiological subgroups

Matias-Guiu J, Alvarez J, Insa R, et al.  
Acta Neurol Scand 1990; 81:314-317.

Three hundred and eighty six consecutive young adults who experienced ischemic stroke were studied. Those strokes attributed to migraine were significantly related to the intake of oral contraceptives.

### CLINICAL RESEARCH FACULTY POSITIONS

The Northwestern College of Chiropractic is seeking experienced clinical researchers to fill full-time positions in the *Center for Clinical Studies*.

Clinicians with research interests and/or experience are being sought. Experience in outcomes assessment research, clinical trials or cost effectiveness research are very desirable. A masters or doctoral degree in a research related field is an additional asset.

Preference will be given to clinical researchers whose areas of particular interest include maternal/child health, geriatric health and occupational health.

#### Responsibilities include:

- initiate clinical research projects
- seek grant funding
- publish research articles
- attend research conferences
- patient care

#### Opportunities include:

- Practice incentive plan
- new 12,000 sq.ft. clinical research facility
- excellent clinical research opportunity
- patient care within a faculty group practice

Candidates must either have or be eligible to obtain licensure in Minnesota.

Interested doctors should send a resume, publications, and a letter describing research and clinical experience and specific interests to:

William S. Jose, Ph.D.  
Director of Research  
Northwestern College of Chiropractic  
2501 West 84th Street  
Bloomington, MN 55431