

To the Editor:

Re: **Involuntary explosive sound of amusement (laughing¹) as a supplemental Jendrassik's maneuver during muscle stretch deep tendon reflex testing (MSDTRT)**

The Wexler scale² is one of the commonly used methods of grading the response during muscle stretch deep tendon reflex testing.

To coax "bashful" reflexes (i.e. to differentiate whether a reflex should be graded 0, or graded 1) suggested Jendrassik's reinforcement maneuvers, or modified reinforcement maneuvers are:³

In lower extremity testing: instructing the patient to make a hook with their fingers, and to then pull as hard as they can (i.e. resist pulling their hands apart).

In upper extremity testing: instructing the patient to plantar flex at the ankle, or grit their teeth.

During the MSDTRT of a patient, I used a Buck reflex hammer to tap on the patient's patellar tendon. Getting no response, I asked the patient to make a hook with her fingers, and pull hard; I tapped on her patellar tendon again, and there was still no response. Just as I tapped a 3rd time, the examinee made an involuntary explosive sound of amusement (i.e. she laughed loudly), and her patellar muscle stretch deep tendon reflex appeared.

I am writing to observe that laughing could be used, in equivocal cases or in cases where the MSDTR's are difficult to elicit, as an additional reinforcement method to supplement the Jendrassik's reinforcement maneuver.

RP Corbett, DC, DABCO, DACBR
Winkler, Manitoba

References

- 1 The Webster Home & Office Dictionary, p 288.
- 2 PM & R Secrets, O'Young B, Young M, Stiens SA, Philadelphia, Hanley & Belfus Inc., 1997, p 104.
- 3 Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy, sixteenth edition, p 1384.

Second Canadian Chiropractic Research Symposium UQTR NOVEMBER 3-5, 2000

Contact Conference Organizer:

Dr. Felix Louis
Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
C.P. 500, Trois-Rivières, Québec G9A 5H7
Tel: (819) 376-5186
Fax: (819) 376-5204
e-mail: Felix_Louis@UQTR.Uquebec.ca

or

Dr Allan Gotlib
CCA Research Programs Co-ordinator
Tel: (416) 781-5656 ext. 224
Fax: (416) 781-0923
e-mail: algotlib@ccachiro.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS