

## ABSTRACT

**Gastro-intestinal bleeding in patients with spinal cord trauma. Effects of steroids, cimetidine and mini-dose heparin,** by Nancy Epstein, D. C. Hood, and T. Ransohoff. *J. Neurosurg.* (1981), 54, pp. 16-20.

In this important paper, the authors state that 20 per cent of their patients in their study on Spinal Cord Trauma had evidence of gastro-intestinal (G.I.) bleeding.

In 131 of these patients in which the neurological functional effects of low or of high dose steroid therapy was being studied, it was found that there was no dose-G.I. haemorrhage relation, either regarding incidence or degree. Neither did mini-dose heparin, being used as a prophylaxis against deep venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolus, have any effect on the incidence of G.I. bleeding, although full heparinisation significantly increased the tendency.

None of their patients had a history of peptic ulcer, and it could not be demonstrated that cimetidine alone or in conjunction with antacids had a favourable effect in reducing the incidence of G.I. haemorrhage in patients who were on steroids and mini-dose heparin.

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## COMING EVENTS

International Symposium on Restorative Medicine, to be held at the Taj Mahal Hotel, Bombay, 20th-21st September 1981.

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