

Abstracts

Bladder Function Following Spinal Cord Injury: A Urodynamic Analysis of the Outcome

E. P. Arnold, J. Fukin, A. Anthony and W. L. F. Utley
British Journal of Urology, (1984) 172-177.

Bladder function was monitored in a series of 58 patients admitted with spinal cord injury. Automatic voiding was ultimately achieved in 37 cases and a further five emptied satisfactorily by means of abdominal straining. Outlet surgery was required in 28 per cent, this figure comparing with other series.

Vesico-ureteric reflux developed in six and the authors comment on the high detrusor pressures noted in 15 of the 46 supra-nuclear lesions. Detrusor pressure of over 80 cm water were in most cases associated with autonomic hyper-reflexia. If a reduction of outlet resistance was not achieved by phenoxybenzamine, external sphincterotomy was performed.

J. Cosbie Ross

Unrecognised Femoral Fractures in Patients with Paraplegia due to Multiple Sclerosis

G. S. Cocksedge, S. Freestone and J. F. Martin
British Medical Journal, (1984) 289, 309.

The authors point out that, in paraplegia due to multiple sclerosis, fractures of the long bones of the legs may occur without any history of trauma. Difficulty is experienced in diagnosis and, in the two patients they quote, at first the trouble in the legs was thought to be due to a deep venous thrombosis, thus causing delay in initiating correct treatment.

Their first patient had bilateral supracondylar femoral fractures and, in the second, a fracture of the femoral shaft. In both instances the leg became swollen, dusky and bruised in appearance.

J. Cosbie Ross

Pelvic Evoked Responses

R. Ewing, B. Choa and K. E. D. Shuttleworth
British Journal of Surgery, (1983) 55, 639-641.

Using an electrophysiological technique, the authors measured the sacral reflex arc from either the bladder or the urethra to the anal sphincter. They point out that the afferent impulses pass along the pelvic nerves and through the cauda equina to the sacral spinal cord: thereafter the impulses pass through a poly-synaptic reflex to activate the pudendal nucleus and thus to the anal sphincter. In this experiment 15 normal volunteers were compared with a group largely consisting of patients with multiple sclerosis.

The method said to be difficult, was used to assess the effects of sub-trigonal phenol injection therapy on the sensory nerves of the bladder. It was found that the injection therapy abolished bladder to anus responses.

J. Cosbie Ross