

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

The authors should be complimented for bringing to the attention of those working with spinal cord injury patients the unusual feature of self-biting of fingers in tetraplegic patients (Dahlin *et al.*, 1985).

In nearly 12 years spent in the Spinal Cord Injury Service of the Veterans Administration in Boston out of a population of about 850 spinal cord injuries we have come across but one single similar case in a tetraplegic patient whose self-biting resulted in 'amputation' of the two distal phalanges of all fingers in both hands. This figure points at the very low incidence of this particular pathology.

It should also be underlined that the very first English language report mentioning this complication goes back to 1964 (Comarr & Feld, 1964). Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's and unto God the things which be God's!

Professor Alain B. Rossier

References

- COMARR AE, FELD M 1964 Autocannibalism in a tetraplegic patient. *American Journal of Surgery* 107:642-643.
- DAHLIN PA, VAN BUSKIRK NE, NOVOTNY RW, HOLLIS IR, GEORGE J 1985 Self-biting with multiple finger amputations following spinal cord injury. *Paraplegia* 23:306-318.