

muscular dystrophy in association with malignant hyperthermia or anesthetic induced cardiac arrest. This patient had neither myoglobinuria nor hyperthermia. A neonatal presentation of Duchenne muscular dystrophy is exceptional, signs usually appearing when the patient becomes ambulant.

NEONATAL GUILLAIN-BARRE' SYNDROME

A term female infant presenting with generalized hypotonia, paucity of lower limb movements, and diminished DTRs was diagnosed as a case of Guillain-Barre' syndrome at the Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Canada. At 3 weeks of age, motor nerve conduction studies showed slowed velocities and decreased action potentials, and the CSF protein was elevated with normal cells. Clinical improvement began at age 2 weeks and examination was normal at 22 weeks. (Al-Qudah AA et al. Neonatal Guillain-Barre' syndrome. Pediatr Neurol Aug 1988;4:255-6).

NEONATAL MYASTHENIA GRAVIS

The advantages of electrodiagnosis in a premature infant with neonatal myasthenia gravis are proposed by the Dept of Rehabilitation Medicine, Children's Hospital and Medical Center, Univ of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA. The infant, born to a mother with myasthenia, suffered hypoxia and subependymal hemorrhage which probably contributed to the hypotonia and poor respiratory effort. Testing with edrophonium, 0.1 mg/kg IV demonstrated no clinical improvement, whereas repetitive motor nerve stimulation testing showed a significant decremental response consistent with a diagnosis of neonatal myasthenia gravis. The decremental response was corrected following IV infusion of edrophonium 0.15 mg/kg. Pyridostigmine in a dose of 8 mg/kg/day resulted in clinical improvement of respiratory and muscular activity, and the infant was weaned from assisted ventilation at 27 days of age. He was discharged at 41 days of age on pyridostigmine therapy. The authors conclude that repetitive motor nerve stimulation may be a more reliable diagnostic procedure than edrophonium IV in the newborn with suspected myasthenia gravis. (Hays RM, Michaud LJ. Neonatal myasthenia gravis: Specific advantages of repetitive stimulation over edrophonium testing. Pediatr Neurol Aug 1988;4:245-7).

COMMENT. The value of electrodiagnostic tests in the differential diagnosis of the hypotonic infant is demonstrated in these 2 case reports. Neonatology texts often recommend edrophonium as the test of choice in neonatal myasthenia gravis. The above experience indicates that the pharmacological test alone may not be as sensitive as repetitive nerve stimulation in the newborn with multiple problems. Ultrasonography is an additional technique of potential value in the work up of the hypotonic infant. Heckmatt JZ and Dubowitz V of