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## Time course of the denervation in early stage of Bell 's palsy.: Identification by electrophysiologic study

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**Background:** Electrophysiologic study accurately predicts the degree of degenerated motor axons but cannot give precise information on the type of injury that occurred in Bell 's palsy. Because of these limitation for prognostic prediction in Bell 's palsy, we evaluated divergence of electrophysiological time course for the purpose of presuming the type of injury in Bell 's palsy.

**Methods:** We did bilateral facial nerve conduction studies in 103 Bell 's palsy patients, who visited to Han-Gang sacred heart hospital from 1998 to 2001. We compared the CMAP amplitude of disease site with that of normal site and suggested that decremental CMAP amplitude ratio (percentage) as a degree of denervation of affected facial nerve. Then we demonstrated the time course of denervation percentage. After defining normal range of CMAP amplitude difference from normal control group, we also evaluated if distinct time course of early minimal denervation is present.

**Results:** Our results show that time course of the denervation in early stage of Bell 's palsy reflect various injury type such as axonotmesis , neurotmesis or other unidentified type. We cannot identify the distinct time course of early minimal denervation.

**Conclusions:** The time course as well as the maximal value of denervation are the best prognostic guidelines in Bell 's palsy. So repeated serial electrophysiologic test are inevitable to assess prognosis. As an another topic, early minimal denervation for prognostic prediction deserve to be evaluated as a future work up for prognostic prediction.

**Key word:** Bell palsy, Electrophysiology, Time course, Denervation

			가	. <sup>1-6</sup> Zander <sup>2</sup>
				(compound muscle
(type)	(degree)	.	action potential, CMAP)	
			CMAP	
		(%)		(denervation)

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CMAP 가 가  
<sup>5,7-10</sup>

(time factor) 가 가

5 8 가 가<sup>2,9,10</sup> “가 가 ,

(time course) 가

degeneration) 5 8 가 가<sup>9</sup> 가

가 CMAP (side-to-side amplitude comparison) (divergence of electrophysiological time course) 가

1998 6 2001 8 15 : 53 ) 46.8±24.4 ( : 50 , 1 4 35 14 7 Taverne<sup>9</sup> 가 가 가 가

25 ) 39.8±14.1 가 Nihon Kohden Neuropack 20 23℃ Oh<sup>12</sup> (active recording electrode) (reference electrode)

(active recording electrode) (eye horn) (tragus of earlobe) (zygomatic branch of facial nerve) (supramaximal stimulation) CMAP sweep speed centimeter 5 ms (sensitivity) (division) 1000 V 10 Hz 10,000 Hz

(onset - latency) (peak - to - peak amplitude) CMAP CMAP difference (%) (1 - Amplitude of CMAP of affected side / Amplitude of CMAP of unaffected side) × 100

1. CMAP difference (%)

(Table 1). CMAP difference (%) 2 standard deviation , 12% CMAP difference (%) 12% CMAP difference (%) (early minimal denervation) 4 가 4 8 100% CMAP difference 1 3 50 60% (Fig. 1). 1 4 , 5 9 10 15 12% CMAP difference (%) 1 4 가 (Table 2) (ANOVA test, p<0.01).

2. CMAP difference (%) CMAP difference (%) CMAP difference (%) (linear regression test, p<0.01) (Fig. 2A). Fisch<sup>1</sup>가 3 5 (neu-

**Table 1.** Comparison of sex, age and mean CMAP difference(%) between control and case.

	Control (N=43)	Case (N=103)	P-value
Sex (M : F)	18 : 25	50 : 53	NS
Mean age $\pm$ SD	39.8 $\pm$ 14.1	46.8 $\pm$ 24.4	NS
Mean CMAP difference (%) $\pm$ SD	4.1 $\pm$ 4.1	43.3 $\pm$ 28.4	P < 0.01

**Table 2.** Relationship between test day and frequency of abnormal CMAP difference (%)

	Group I (1 4days)	Group II (5 9days)	Group III (10 15days)
Case (N)	35	33	35
CMAP diff. >12% (N)	22	31	33
Mean CMAP difference (%) $\pm$ SD	24.4 $\pm$ 24.2	48.0 $\pm$ 25.6	49.7 $\pm$ 26.2

**Table 3.** Summary of 14 patients who undergoing initial test 1-4 days and follow-up test 7days after initial test day

	No.	Age/Sex	Day	Initial CMAP difference (%)	Follow up CMAP difference (%)	Next
Initial > 12%	1	18/M	3	31.8	54.5	?
	2	20/F	2	20.1	55.8	?
	3	25/M	3	57.7	60.6	?
	4	28/M	4	17.5	23.7	?
	5	41/M	3	25.7	78.7	?
	6	43/M	4	20.2	41.2	?
	7	49/M	3	16.1	67.9	?
	8	52/F	2	18.1	53.5	?
	9	53/F	4	18.1	5.5	?
Initial < 12%	10	67/F	2	79.0	91.2	?
	11	30/M	3	2.4	25.1	?
	12	45/F	2	5.5	36.6	?
	13	67/M	2	5.5	73.7	?
	14	78/F	3	4.3	75.2	?

rotmesis)

2 3 가

(axonotmesis)

(Fig. 2B).

Fisch

(Fig. 2C).

2 3

CMAP

3. 7

1 4

7

14

(Table 3).

CMAP

(amplitude ratio)

CMAP

(neurapaxia),

ence(%)가

가

CMAP differ -

9

(perineurium)

(endoneurium),

1,14

ference (%)

4

18.12%

CMAP dif -

11

5.50%

14 3

4.33%

CMAP difference (%)

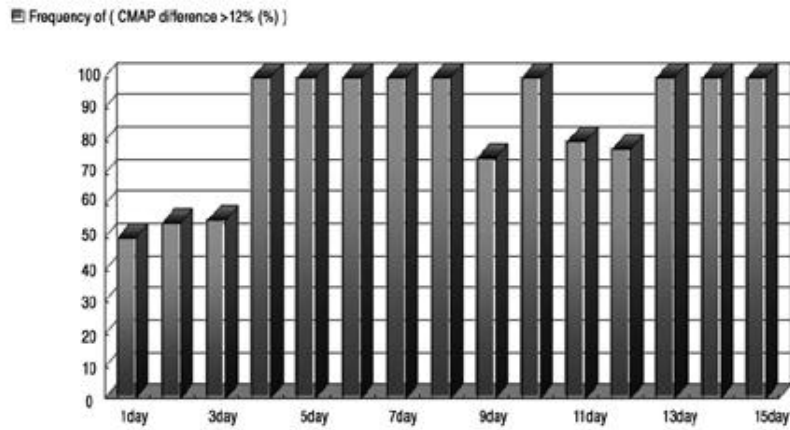
10

15

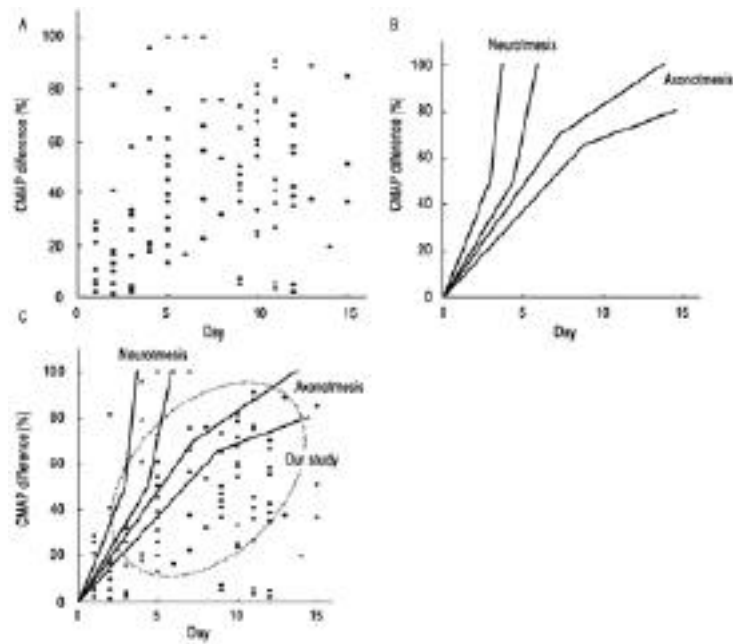
75.2% CMAP difference (%)가

가

가



**Figure 1.** Frequency of early minimal denervation according to the days after symptom onset



**Figure 2.** (A) Time course of CMAP difference (%) in our study (B) Time course of denervation in axonotmesis and neurotmesis (modified from Fisch') (C) Comparison between Fisch' and our study

Fisch

가 , CMAP difference (%) CMAP differ-  
 가 , ence (%)  
 , 4 가  
 가 14 가  
 (Fig. 2B).  
 CMAP difference (%)가 (neurapaxia),  
 가  
 (Fig. 2A, 2C) Fisch 가 가  
 1 가 가 가  
 가 가 가 가  
 가 가 가 가

가 가

5 , 가 2

2 가 3

가

4 가 가

grading

가

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