therapy (Millichap JG. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity and Learning Disorders. Chicago, PNB Publishers, 1998).

ACTIGRAPHY MEASUREMENTS COMPARED IN ADHD SUBTYPES

Subtypes of ADHD, inattentive and combined types, were compared by actigraphy at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada. An actigraph (Ambulatory Monitoring Inc), an acceleration-sensitive, watch-like device, was worn on the nondominant wrist to measure motor activity in 64 children during a full-day clinical diagnostic assessment; 20 patients had ADHD predominantly inattentive type, 22 had ADHD combined type, and 22 were non-ADHD controls. Mean actigraph scores for two 2-hour sessions in the morning and afternoon were calculated. Activity levels in the morning session showed no group differences. In the afternoon, children with ADHD were significantly more active than controls, but there were no subtype differences. (Dane AV, Schachar RJ, Tannock R. Does actigraphy differentiate ADHD subtypes in a clinical research setting? J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry June 2000;39:752-760). (Reprints: Rosemary Tannock PhD, Brain and Behavior Research Program, The Hospital for Sick Children, 555 University Ave, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5G 1X8).

COMMENT. Objective measurement of motor activity in children with ADHD was previously described by Schulman and Reisman (Amer J Ment Defic 1959:64:455), and the "actometer," an automatically winding calendar wristwatch, was used by Millichap (Am J Dis Child 1968;116:235) to demonstrate a significant lessening of overactivity in hyperactive children treated with methylphenidate. Teicher MH et al employed an infrared video and motion analysis system in measures of hyperactivity and attentional problems (J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry 1996;35:334). These objective measures of motor activity have proved of value in research but usually impractical in general management of ADHD.

The actigraph employed in the present study is similar in principle to the actometer devised in 1959 at Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago. In comparing subtypes of ADHD, using the actigraph, the DSM-IV subjective behavioral criteria for combined and inattentive types of ADHD do not correlate with objective measurements of motor activity. The situational specificity of hyperactive behavior, with differences in morning and afternoon sessions, demonstrates the inconsistencies demonstrated by the actigraph measures.

DEVELOPMENTAL GERSTMANN'S SYNDROME

Ten children with developmental Gerstmann's syndrome (DGS) are described in a report from the Institute for Communicative and Cognitive Neuro Sciences, Kerala, India. All patients had acalculia, finger anomia, agraphia, and right-left disorientation, characteristic of acquired GS in adults, all had constructional apraxia, 4 alexia, 3 had abnormalities in the EEG, and 3 had MRI/CT abnormalities. Seizures occurred in 4, hyperkinetic behavior in 10 (100%), and the neurologic examination revealed sensory abnormalities, including graphanesthesia in 9, astereognosis in 9, loss of 2-point discrimination in 9, and impaired position sense in 5. Compared to adult GS, DGS is characterized by biparietal dysfunction, absence of structural brain lesions, infrequent language disturbance, and common reading and behavioral problems. Six children demonstrated improvement with intensive speech training. (Suresh PA, Sebastian S. Developmental Gerstmann's syndrome: a distinct clinical entity of learning disabilities. Pediatr Neurol April 2000;22:267-278). (Respond: Dr Suresh, Dept Neurology, Sree Chitra Tirunal Inst for Medical Sci, Ullor, Trivandrum, Kerala 695011, India).