S-II-4. Stereotaxic VL Thalamotomy for Parkinsonism

Operative Indication Seen from Its Long Term Results

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From the year 1958 to April, 1971, we experienced 112 cases of parkinsonism. The examination of the present state of these cases by means of enquete was replied to in 98 cases. The time elapsed after operation ranged from 6 months to 11 years.

From this examination the following results were obtained:

1) The long term result of surgery varied very much, depending upon whether the operation (VL thalamotomy) was made with accuracy or not. In cases of inaccurate operation the preoperative conditions usually reappeared during about 6 months after operation.

2) On the other hand, in cases in which an accurate operation had been made, the effect of VL- thalamotomy was maintained very well for a long time. Especially in cases of hemiparkinsonism, many of patients have led a normal social life without being in need of other medications at all.

3) Stereotaxic VL thalamotomy proved to be effective for tremor and rigidity among symptoms of parkinsonism, but not for pseudobulbar signs, such as well as for mental deterioration and bradykinesia. From this, it is probably proper that we should generally consider the operative indication on the basis of the proportional relation between tremor or rigidity and other signs, such as bradykinesia and the like.

4) The age of patients at the time of operation and the number of years of affection till that time seems to have no direct relation with the late result of operation. Generally speaking, when a patient is young or in cases showing less mental deterioration or bradykinesia the late result of operation is favourable.

S-II-5. Results of Bilateral Thalamotomy

—In 23 Preselected Cases of Parkinsonism—

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