

ABSTRACT

Scapulohumeral Reflex and Selected Demographic Factors: Their Relationships in a Normal Population

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Purpose

The purpose of this study was to determine the extent to which the scapulohumeral reflex occurs in the normal population, bilaterally or unilaterally, and is related to the demographic variables of age, gender, or hand dominance.

Methodology

A correlational research design was selected for use in this study. Measures utilized in data collection were the self-assessment questionnaire (for collection of demographic information and screening) and reflex testing.

Of the 100 subjects, one-third were males and two-thirds were females. They were included in the study because they were compatible with the criteria contained in the self-assessment questionnaire.

In order to determine whether data collected for hypothesis 1 were statistically significant, the Confidence Interval for a Single Population Proportion was computed. For the remaining hypotheses, the Chi Square test of significance was employed.

Findings

Statistically significant results were obtained for hypotheses 1 and 2, indicating that the scapulohumeral reflex is present in the normal population and is positively associated hand dominance.

Conclusions

The scapulohumeral reflex appears to a significant degree in the normal population and should be tested more consistently in a neurological examination along with the biceps, brachioradialis, triceps, and Hoffman's reflex. An examiner can expect the scapulohumeral reflex to occur bilaterally, within older or younger age groups, male or female, and in left or right hand dominant subjects with the same expectations as other upper extremity reflexes.