

Initial Motor Unit Discharge Pattern in Patients with Stroke

Sang-Moo Lee, M.D., Jae-Chun Bae, M.D.

Department of Neurology, College of Medicine, Hallym University

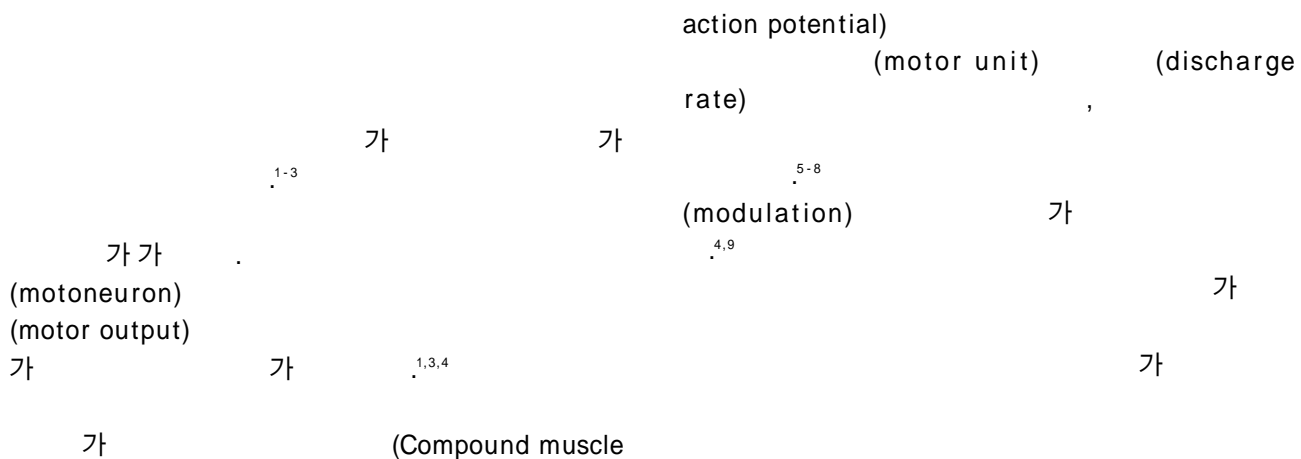
Background : Changes in firing pattern and in the recruitment order of single motor unit(MU) have been claimed to be characteristic of central motor lesions, and a reduced firing rate was found in upper motor neuron lesions. But these findings have been rarely studied before in Korea, so we studied initial MU recruitment pattern in stroke patients with hemiparesis.

Methods : We studied six patients(3 men and 3 women) whose mean age was 60.6 ± 7.4 years. A mean 20.6 ± 16.2 months had elapsed since the stroke. To compare the initial MU activation patterns in proximal and distal segments of paretic limb with their contralateral unaffected counterparts, we studied the onset and recruitment intervals in biceps brachii(BB) and first dorsal interossei(FDI) muscles in paretic and healthy arms. In a single muscle we examined from 5 to 10 individual MUs. And in a single motor unit, both the onset interval and the recruitment interval was examined.

Results : The mean onset interval in paretic limb was significantly($p < 0.05$) longer than unaffected limb at proximal and distal location: BB 118.5 ± 17.8 msec vs 96.1 ± 8.3 msec($n=58$); FDI 125.8 ± 16.7 msec vs 101.5 ± 17.2 msec($n=38$). The mean recruitment interval in paretic limb was also significantly($p < 0.05$) longer than unaffected limb: BB 87.7 ± 14.9 msec vs 73.4 ± 11.5 msec($n=53$); FDI 96.3 ± 16.4 msec vs 87.7 ± 14.1 msec($n=38$).

Conclusion : The first recruited MU had a lower baseline firing rate and the second recruited motor unit potential appeared earlier in paretic than in healthy muscles. And these findings may explain one of the reasons for paresis in patients with stroke.

Key Words : Stroke, Onset Interval, Recruitment Interval



Address for correspondence

Sang-Moo Lee, M.D.

Department of Neurology, Hallym University College of Medicine,
135-Gyo-dong, Chuncheon-si, Gangwon-do, 200-060, Korea

Tel : +82-33-252-9970(255) Fax : +82-33-255-1338

E-mail : smlee@hallym.or.kr

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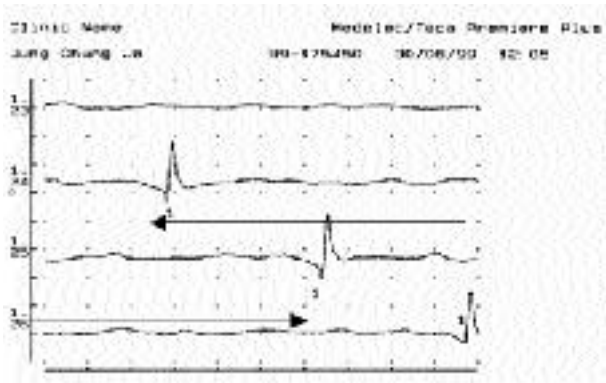


Figure 1. Onset interval is inter-spike interval of a single motor unit potential at minimal effort(time interval between two arrows).

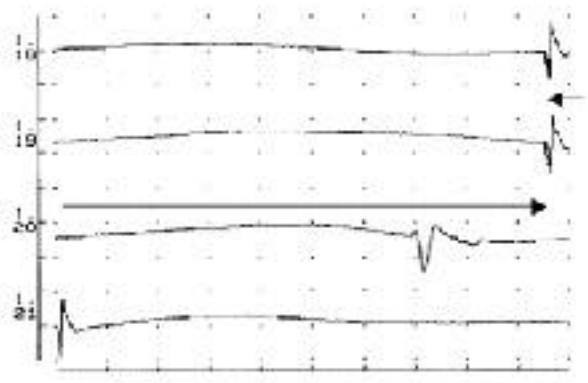


Figure 2. Recruitment interval is inter-spike interval between two consecutive discharges of a motor unit potential when a different motor unit potential first appears(time interval between two arrows).

3, 3)

3 3

4, 2

2. 가 (Premiere Plus, Medelec, England) 30 (concentric needle)

1 가 (first dorsal interossei)

가 (onset interval) 가 (recruitment interval)

5~10

가 (onset frequency) (Fig. 1).

가

(recruitment frequency) (Fig. 2).

200 μ V, low filter 10 Hz, high filter 10 kHz, (sweep speed) 100 ms

SAS package

unpaired t-test p 0.05 가

1. 6 (3, 3) 60.6 \pm 7.4 (51~69) , 가 20.6 \pm 16.2 (6~46) 가

1 322 1

120 80 가 63 60

4 가 MRC Grade II, 2 가 Grade IV

2. 118.5 \pm 17.8 msec 87.7 \pm 14.9 msec

96.1 \pm 8.3 msec 73.4 \pm 11.5 msec 가

(p < 0.05). 가

1 125.8 \pm 16.7 msec 96.3 \pm 16.4 msec

101.5 \pm 17.2 msec 87.7 \pm 10.1 msec 가 (p < 0.05)(Table 1).

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1 (p < 0.05)(Table 1).

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Table 1. Comparison of onset interval and recruitment interval(mean ± SD, msec)

| | BBu | BBi | FDDu | FDIi |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Onset interval | 96.1 ± 8.3 | 118.5 ± 17.8* | 101.5 ± 17.2 | 125.8 ± 16.7* |
| Recruitment interval | 73.4 ± 11.5 | 87.7 ± 14.9* | 87.7 ± 10.1 | 96.3 ± 16.4* |

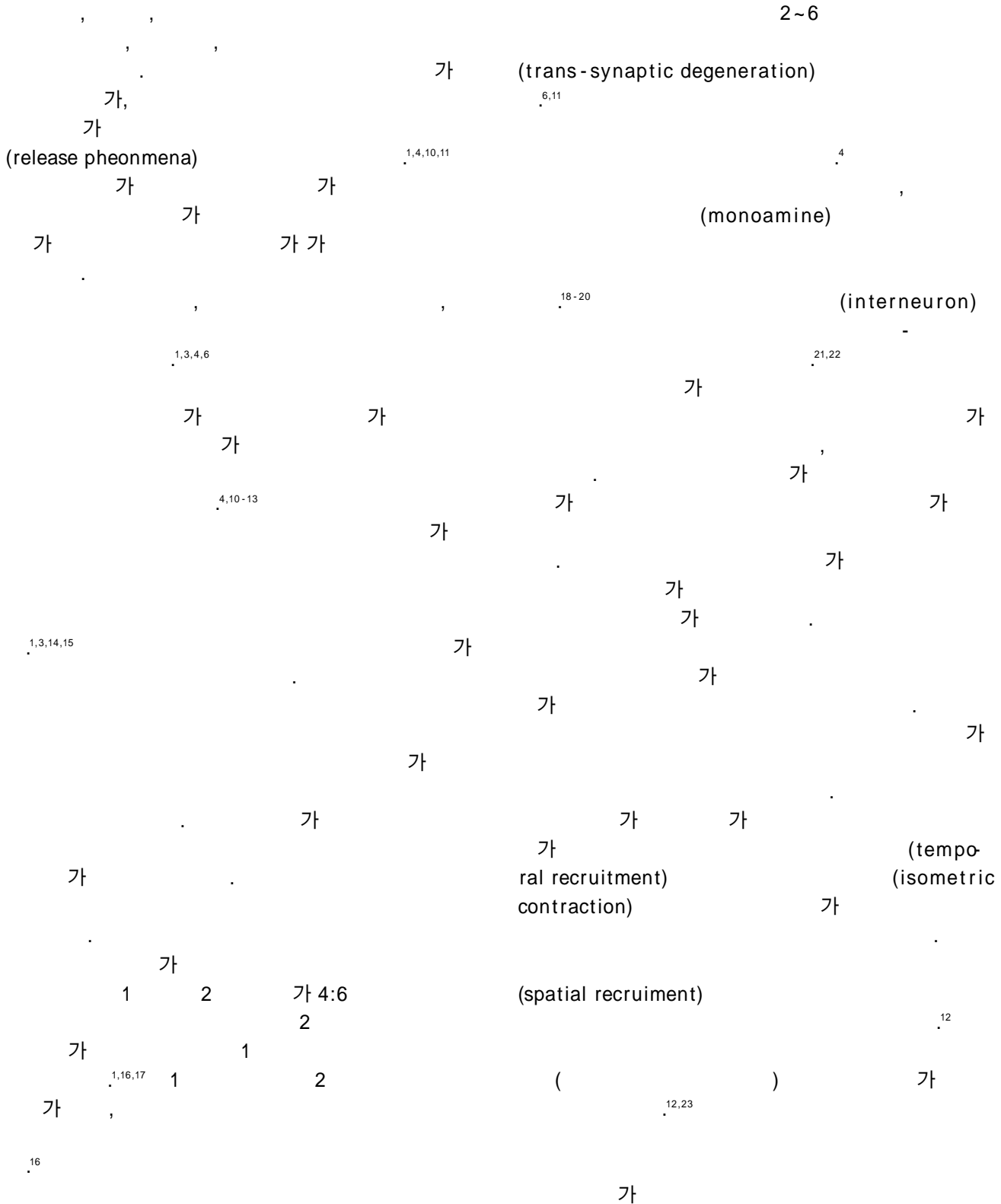
BBu: Biceps brachii, uninvolved side

BBi: Biceps brachii, involved side

FDDu: First dorsal interossei, uninvolved side

FDIi: First dorsal interossei, involved side

*; p-value<0.05



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