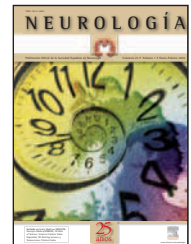


# NEUROLOGÍA

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## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Neurophysiology training in the Neurology Specialist Education Program in Spain

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### KEYWORDS

Neurology;  
Education;  
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### Abstract

**Introduction:** The training period in neurophysiology is a substantial part of the Neurology Specialist Program in Spain. The National Neurology Committee (*La Comisión Nacional de Neurología, CNN*), which is the body reporting to the Ministries of Health and Education, must ensure compliance to the Program.

**Material and methods:** During the first trimester of 2008, the CNN sent a questionnaire, in which there was a question asking about this training period, to each of the managers of the 69 teaching units accredited for neurology training in Spain, for them to answer.

**Results:** Of the 69 questionnaires issued, 49 were received completed, which was a response rate of 71%. The neurophysiology training period of the neurology specialist program in Spain was carried out in the same hospital in 44 teaching unit (90%); the remaining 5 sent their neurology trainees to 4 different hospitals. The Unit that carried out the neurophysiology training period was incorporated into the Neurology Department in 27 (55%) cases, and the formula was mixed in 3 (6%). A total of 69% of tutors were satisfied with the training, but was 90% in the hospitals where the unit was integrated into Neurology, and was 65% where this relationship did not exist. The neurologists in training were informed about EEG in 49% of education units, performed EMG/ENG 57%, and informed about evoked potentials in 35% after their training period.

**Conclusions:** Although the level of satisfaction is high, the level of responsibility assumed by the neurologists in training during their rotation into neurophysiology does not appear to comply to the demands laid out in the training program, particularly in these units not integrated into Neurology Departments.

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**PALABRAS CLAVE**

Neurología;  
Educación;  
Neurofisiología;  
Programa formativo

## La formación en neurofisiología en el programa educativo de la especialidad de neurología en España

**Resumen**

**Introducción:** El periodo formativo en neurofisiología es una parte sustancial del programa de la especialidad de neurología en España. La Comisión Nacional de Neurología (CNN), que es el órgano dependiente de los Ministerios de Sanidad y Educación, debe velar por el cumplimiento del programa.

**Material y métodos:** Durante el primer semestre de 2008 la CNN envió a cada una de las 69 unidades docentes acreditadas para la formación de neurología en España un cuestionario para que los responsables docentes de cada unidad lo contestaran, donde se preguntaba sobre este periodo formativo.

**Resultados:** De los 69 cuestionarios remitidos se recibieron 49 cumplimentados, lo que supone una tasa de respuesta del 71%. El periodo formativo de neurofisiología del programa de la especialidad de neurología se realiza en España en el mismo hospital en 44 centros (90%); los 5 restantes envían sus NeF a 4 hospitales diferentes. La Unidad que realiza el periodo formativo de neurofisiología está integrada en el servicio de neurología en 19 (39%) hospitales, es independiente en 27 (55%) y la fórmula es mixta en 3 (6%). El 69% de los tutores docentes estaba satisfecho con la formación, pero en el 90% de los hospitales en los que la unidad estaba integrada en neurología y en el 65% de los que no existía esta relación. Los neurólogos en formación informan EEG en el 49% de las unidades docentes, realizan EMG/ENG en el 57% e informan potenciales evocados en el 35% tras su periodo formativo.

**Conclusiones:** Aunque el grado de satisfacción es alto, el nivel de responsabilidad que asumen los neurólogos en formación durante la rotación por neurofisiología parece que no cumple las exigencias previstas en el programa formativo, especialmente en aquellas unidades no integradas en servicios de neurología.

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## Introduction

The current training programme for Neurology in Spain<sup>1</sup> stipulates that future specialists should have a compulsory training period of three months to learn the knowledge and acquire training in clinical neurophysiology skills. Teaching audits in all specialities are periodically carried out, to guarantee adherence to these training programmes, to try to ensure that all specialists trained in Spain acquire the skills set out on the programme and regarding accreditation criteria of the teaching centres and units.<sup>2</sup> However, the National Neurology Committee (CNN is the Spanish acronym), the body in charge of the training programme and which monitors its adherence, also obtains information from surveys undertaken in teaching units through study tutors and tutors of the teaching hospitals. This article analyses training in neurophysiology within the neurology training programme, as well as the characteristics of the units where it is carried out.

## Material and methods

During the first trimester of 2008, CNN sent a questionnaire together with instructions for its correct completion to each of the 69 teaching units accredited for neurology training in

Spain, so that those in charge of training at each unit could respond to it. It was sent to the teaching units via the information distribution channels of the Ministry of Health and Consumption, and its completion was requested at least twice. The questionnaire, which appears in Annex 1, was made up of 8 closed reply questions on the neurologist trainees' (NeTs) situation during the training period in neurophysiology. Although the questionnaire was closed, questions 3 and 8 were dichotomous ("yes"- "no"), and in the final analysis another intermediary possibility was included ("yes but") which was used spontaneously by the majority of the centres although it had not been originally considered.

A descriptive statistical analysis was performed on the variables included in the survey using the Excel programme. Among the variables studied, we included the Autonomous Community the teaching department belonged to, the number of annual NeTs the teaching unit received (between 1 and 4), the level of the centre housing the teaching unit classified by the number of beds, whether or not the unit that carried out neurophysiology training in the Neurology Department had organic dependence, the staff of the unit that carries out neurophysiology training, the number of techniques, adherence to the training programme<sup>1</sup> and the level of satisfaction for the training received by the NeTs.

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