

## Accepted Manuscript

Detection of proximal conduction blocks using a triple stimulation technique improves the early diagnosis of Guillain–Barré syndrome

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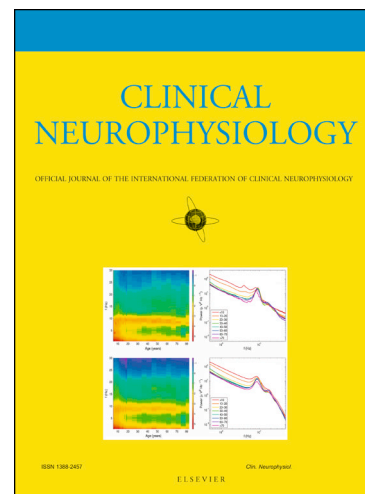
PII: S1388-2457(17)31142-2

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clinph.2017.10.035>

Reference: CLINPH 2008327

To appear in: *Clinical Neurophysiology*

Accepted Date: 11 October 2017



Please cite this article as: Sevy, A., Grapperon, A-M., Salort Campana, E., Delmont, E., Attarian, S., Detection of proximal conduction blocks using a triple stimulation technique improves the early diagnosis of Guillain–Barré syndrome, *Clinical Neurophysiology* (2017), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clinph.2017.10.035>

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## Abstract

### Objective

Current diagnostic electrophysiological criteria can miss the early stages of Guillain–Barré syndrome (GBS). We evaluated the diagnostic efficiency of the triple stimulation technique (TST) in highlighting proximal conduction blocks (CBs) in patients who do not meet the electrophysiological criteria for GBS.

### Methods

All patients with a diagnosis of clinical GBS referred to our center between September 2014 and January 2016 were included in the study. For patients who did not fulfill the electrophysiological criteria of GBS, we performed the TST examination.

### Results

Among the 44 included patients, 86% fulfilled the electrophysiological criteria of GBS during the initial nerve conduction study (NCS). The six remaining patients had proximal CBs revealed by TST examination. Therefore, a combination of a conventional NCS and the TST allowed 100% of the patients to be electrophysiologically diagnosed.

### Conclusions

TST is useful for the diagnosis of GBS in association with nerve conduction studies, particularly in the early stages of the disease.

### Significance

TST is a useful tool for GBS diagnosis at the early stages of the disease.

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