OBJECTIVES

In a recent study, Sunnybrook and House-Brackmann (H-B) facial grading systems in Bell’s palsy patients were compared with the H-B system being more accurate. The study aimed to determine the congruence between these two systems in the assessment of facial palsy in a prospective study setting.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Subjects and Methods: Data are part of the Swedish Scancell Bell’s palsy study. The facial function of 1,274 patients was assessed using the Sunnybrook facial grading system and the H-B system. Grading was done at initial visit, at days 11 to 17 of palsy onset, 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 6 months, and at 12 months. The statistical evaluation was by Spearman correlation coefficient and box plot analysis.

RESULTS

Study data are from the prospective multi-center Swedish Scancell Bell’s palsy study (SBPS). Facial palsy patients assessed using the Sunnybrook grading system were compared with the H-B system. Assessments were made within 72 hours of palsy onset (initial visit), at days 11 to 17 of palsy onset, at 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 6 months, and at 12 months. Facial palsy grading was assessed for each patient by the Sunnybrook and H-B systems. Assessments were made within 72 hours of palsy onset (initial visit), at days 11 to 17 of palsy onset, at 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 6 months, and at 12 months. Facial palsy grading was assessed for each patient by the Sunnybrook and H-B systems. Assessments were made within 72 hours of palsy onset (initial visit), at days 11 to 17 of palsy onset, at 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 6 months, and at 12 months.

CONCLUSIONS

The congruence between the H-B and Sunnybrook grading systems was greater in follow-up assessments than at initial visit. As shown by the wide overlap of the grading results, subjective grading systems are often acceptable. However, a conversion table for Sunnybrook and H-B gradings was obtained if used for the classification of facial function.