Reviewer’s report

Title: Validity of the "Drift without pronation" sign in Conversion Disorder.

Version: 2 Date: 19 January 2013

Reviewer: Christopher Hawkes

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Validity of the ‘Drift without Pronation’ sign in Conversion Disorder. Daum and Aybek. 2013

Summary. The authors set out to validate the pronator drift sign as a means of distinguishing true weakness from functional type paresis. 26 patients with non-organic weakness were compared with 28 with genuine paresis. The test was 100% positive for the conversion disorder group and 7.1% in the real weakness group suggesting that the test is a simple and reliable method of distinguishing these two varieties of motor problems.

Comment. This is a nice, well written study with a clear cut result, slightly compounded by lack of blinding which the authors admit. The paper is acceptable in its current form but the authors might wish to include two other signs which often accompany the pronator drift phenomenon. One is Souque’s sign in which there is passive abduction of the little finger and sometimes adjacent fingers on the side with true paresis. This has to be done with the arm outstretched and pronated. The other sign complements pronator drift and that consists of mild elbow flexion on the weak side. I hope the authors go on to study the value of many other bedside tests such as these, because the majority have never been evaluated properly.

Christopher H Hawkes

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests.