

'Epidemic neuromyasthenia', Texas, 1977 (Abstract)

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A retrospective inquiry suggested that an undetermined number of cases of 'epidemic neuromyasthenia' (ENM) had occurred during mid-1977 in the metropolitan area of Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas. Attempts were made on a small number of convalescent cases to correlate clinical impression with the three procedures reported as being possibly useful in diagnosis of ENM: anticomplementary activity of serum, urinary creatine/creatinine ratio, and electrodiagnostic evaluation. Serological results on twenty-eight patients were negative. Urinary

findings were abnormal for three of five patients. Standard electromyography and nerve-conduction studies on four patients were unremarkable; repetitive stimulation studies on three of these four patients were abnormal. It appears that the muscular weakness observed in ENM may be due to myoneuronal junction dysfunction.

(A full account of this outbreak will be published elsewhere.)