International Course on Functional Stereotactic Neurosurgery, Beijing, May 2015

Basic Electrophysiology of Neurons Recording and stimulation technology Recording and stimulation in the operating room

> Dr Bernard PIDOUX, MD, PhD Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris 6 Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France









Maintaining Resting Potential

K⁺ and Na⁺ can't diffuse across bilayer

















Synaptic transmission





see fig. 48.12



Temporal and spatial Post Synaptic Potentials arithmetic summations



How to record neurons action potentials ?

In the laboratory :

- Intracellular recording
- Glass microelectrodes

On human subjects :

- Extracellular recording
- metallic macro or semi microelectrodes (tungsten)



Recording Neurons with electrodes on human subjects

Metal semi micro electrodes need to be thin, long and have a very thin tip approximately the size of neurons Electrode impedance results from its tip length, surface and conductivity properties









How to record neurons action potentials ?

Membrane action potentials creates electrical fields diffusing into extracellular space.

Decrease of electrical field is inversely proportional to the square of the distance (1/r2)

Close to the axone emergence, a micro electrode records potentials of less about 0.5 mV

Effect of electrode impedance on neurons signal recording

very thin electrode tip surface => High impedance
recording of single or a few neurons action potentials

larger electrode tip surface => Low impedance
more signals from different neurons

less discrimination of action potentials(decrease of signal to noise ratio)



Micro electrode Recording tip Externalized 10 mm

Macro electrode ring

Insulated part

Reference contact Also used later for stimulation (recording contact is retracted inside of the coaxial micro electrode) Micro electrode connections with recording wire (black connector) and reference wire (red connector)

Pulled recording electrode Ground cable Ground symbol

Faraday shield







NO EXTERNAL FIELD

WITH EXTERNAL FIELD

Connection to ground

Guiding tubes





- Guiding tubes provide electrode rigidity
- Straight trajectories
- shield insulation to avoid interferences from electromagnetic fields

3 leads cable connecting electrode to amplifiers



Active lead (black) Reference lead (red)

Connecting box





Neurons action potentials visualization on oscilloscope



Low sweep speed : multiple action potentials

Fast sweep : single action potentials

Neurons action potentials audio monitoring



Programmable Gain Main Amplifier (PGMA-2)
Connecting all things together ...



Two generations of recording and stimulating devices





Analog signals are continuous change of alternative voltage varying in time

Action potentials (extracellular) are characterized by low amplitudes and short durations : micro volts, milliseconds

ANALOG TO DIGITAL CONVERTION







Stimulator

Inverting device

stimulation cable

Connecting cable have two active wires and a ground wire. Stimulation is delivered through red plug (negative pulses) and reference is ground. uld De

IEP : 155010398

IPP : 01313774



Macro electrode connections with stimulating wire (red connector)





Per op stimulation parameters

- Current 0-10 mA
- Monopolar pulses Polarity : negative Duration : 100 µs



Frequency (inverse of period) 130 – 185 Hz



Macro contact used to deliver negative current – stimulating pulses (~~ 0-8 mA) Reference contact is ground +

Goals of Intra-operative Stereotactic clinical neurophysiology

- localize the limits of target nucleus (STN) with the best precision (< 1 mm);
- find nucleus functional area giving the best clinical efficiency on clinical symptoms : akinesia, rigidity, or tremor
- localize functional target (optimal therapeutic effect and minimal adverse effects induced by per operative stimulation)

Gold standard procedure for best results

Patient awaked during recording and stimulation (!)

Microelectrode recording on five trajectories

Macro stimulation where recording showed targeted nucleus activity

Use of guiding tube for permanent electrode positioning

All steps under radiological control

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Y =	103,9	79.2	102.4
Z =	118,3	116.2	77 !
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X = 121,5	X = 83,5

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- Z = 120,0 Z = 119,5
- A = 105° A = 84°
- $B = 56,5^{\circ}$ $B = 60^{\circ}$





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FIG. 5. Microelectrode mapping of the ventral intermedius nucleus. Typical microelectrode map during implantation of DBS into the Vim nucleus of thalamus. Three electrode tracks were performed to define the location of Vim and Vc prior to positioning the DBS electrode. Courtesy of W. Hutchison, University of Toronto.







Thalamic reticular nucleus





type B neurone Raeva et al. 1991



Parkinson's Disease – Subthalamique Nucleus







Single unit microelectrode recording

0,6 sec



Parkinson : substantia nigra single unit activity











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Stimulation-induced effects:



FIG. 2. Sites of stimulation-induced effects in the subthalamic nucleus region on a coronal view at 3 mm posterior to the mid-bicommissural line (from Schaltenbrand's atlas). STN, subthalamic nucleus. The site for paraesthesias is more posterior. The site for autonomic symptoms is more anterior.



FIG. 1. Sites of stimulation-induced effects in the subthalamic nucleus region on a sagittal view at 12 mm of laterality (from Schaltenbrand's atlas) STN, subthalamic nucleus. The site for gaze deviation is imprecise. The sites for eye deviation and dizziness are more medial.













FIG. 2. A: Physiological data obtained from one trajectory through the globus pallidus and optic tract (OT), plotted on the 20-mm sagittal map from the Schaltenbrand and Wahren stereotactic atlas. B: The locations of neurons and their responses as well as intraoperative observations of the characteristics of recordings can be seen. C: Oscilloscope traces of representative examples of the neuronal types described in text. At the bottom is a single sweep of the filtered trace for which the optic tract field potential to visual stimuli was heard but not readily seen. With appropriate filter settings for visual evoked potential measurement from the optic tract, the visual evoked potential can be seen, as illustrated below (the smooth trace). LFB, low-frequency burst neuron; RF, receptive field; PF, projected field; AC, anterior commissure; PC, posterior commissure; GPii, internal segment of GPi; GPie, external segment of GPi. For other abbreviations, see legend to Figure 1. (Reprinted with permission from Lozano et al.¹)








Pallidal neurons activity and finger movements













Intra-operative stereotactic neurophysiology :

- 1. Confirms or adjusts the radiological target coordinates
- 2. Localizes with an extreme precision the spatial limits of nuclei (micro recordings)
- 3. Identifies their electrophysiological signatures
- 4. Defines the therapeutic contact position (macro stimulation, functional target).



Fig.4. Confrontation of the atlas structures and electrophysiological per-operative recordings in the patient's pre-operative MRI. The blue spheres represent the recordings of two microelectrodes by hemisphere identified as being within the STN by the electrophysiologist. Interval distance between two successive spheres is 0.5 mm.





































<u>Coordinates of mean</u> <u>contact</u> (mean + std dev in mm)

<u>RH</u>

ML AP DV	11.25 11.6 3.9	0.81 1.05 1.11
<u>LH</u>		
ML	11.6	0.91
AP	12.05	1.34
DV	2.9	1.19













