

Earlier is better: the benefits of early diagnosis

Abstract

**Complete the abstract with the words which have been removed.
There are 5 extra words.**

essential - significant - maintain - maintenance - greater - earlier - absence - presence
investigator - investigate - investigation - treat - treatment - prolongation - prolonging

The concept of _____ diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) requires in-depth _____ of its benefits and consequences. First, how good must a _____ be before ALS is determined to be a treatable condition? Analogy with cancer therapy suggests that a good quality of life after treatment is an _____ feature of a "good" therapy. Survival in some diseases may be prolonged without a _____ improvement in the patient's quality of life. Neurologists need to be clear about what they are trying to achieve in _____ survival and maintaining a good quality of life for their patients with ALS. Second, can early diagnosis extend apparent survival in the _____ of a therapeutic intervention that significantly affects the disease process? Earlier diagnosis on the basis of confirmed clinical signs and earlier institution of therapy may lead to a perception of improved survival, which is _____ in young ALS patients. Third, can early diagnosis provide a benefit through _____ of the time the patient remains able to work? Any therapeutic intervention to slow the early stages of the disease would benefit patients who wanted to _____ their self-esteem by continuing to work. Finally, earlier diagnosis of ALS requires decisions to be made concerning the acceptable rate of misdiagnosis, which at present reaches 10% false-positive and up to 44% false-negative.