

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

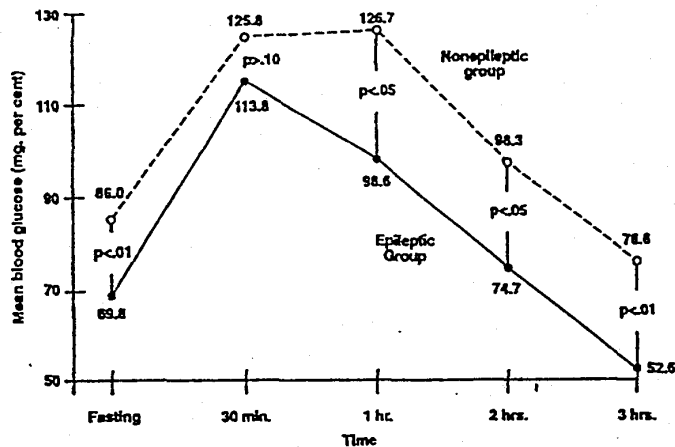
Epilepsy and hypoglycemia

Dear Editor:

Ex-United States President Harry S. Truman, when asked, "What's new?" replied, "Anything you haven't heard before."

In this connection, in 1963 we reported the relationship of carbohydrate metabolism and (grand mal) epilepsy in eleven age- and sex-paired epileptic and nonepileptic patients, using the then-popular Cortisone Glucose Tolerance Test.<sup>1</sup> It was abundantly clear that the epileptic patients had notable lower blood sugar levels at all temporal points except the 30-minute determinations. During these many years, we have continued to observe this pattern with other measures of carbohydrate metabolism.

Comparison of cortisone-glucose tolerance test in 11 paired epileptic and nonepileptic patients



Additionally, the *Physicians's Desk Reference* (PDR) notes that one of the effects of Dilantin Phenytoin Sodium, aside from its anticonvulsant action, is its hyperglycemic effect.<sup>2</sup>

I hope that this letter will encourage further investigation of this long-standing and not-too-well known relationship.

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References:

1. Cheraskin, E. and Ringsdorf, W.M., Jr. Epilepsy and the Cortisone Glucose Tolerance Test. *Lancet* 83: 248-250, 1963.
2. *Physicians's Desk Reference*. Oradell, Medical Economics Company, Inc. 1994.

*Editor's note:* Dr. Cheraskin's contributions to nutritional medicine are well known and appreciated. A true legend in the field, we feel honored to have received a letter from Dr. Cheraskin. If you would like to send us a letter or article for publication, please do so.