

CORRESPONDENCE

'BELL'S PALSY'

I refer to 'Bell's Palsy – a retrospective study'. by Dr. Diong Ko Ing (MMJ Vol. XXVIII, No. 4, June 1974 ppg. 248–250).

I quote Professor Wong Hock Boon's C.P.C. notes dated December, 1974 on Facial Palsy.....' If left alone, Bell's Palsy usually recover fully or partially in 96%, leaving 4% with residual palsy..... conservative means such as *steroids* have *not* proved to improve these prognostic figures.....'. I presume Professor Wong's figures are for the paediatric age group; I

would be grateful for your comments on any comparable figures for adults.

It is said that the first 72 *hours* are the most critical period to determine whether patients are going to improve. Therefore I fail to understand Dr. Diong's opinion, "that all patients with Bell's Palsy presenting within *one month*... should be given a trial (*steroids*)".

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