

CARTAS AL EDITOR

Historical Background of Stereotactic Surgery:
Reflections on Stereotactic Surgery and the Introduction of Microelectrode
Recording in Montreal.
Neurosurgery. 56(5):E1166, May 2005.
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To the Editor:

In the legend to Figure 1 of the article by Hardy (2), "Photograph of Jules Hardy (right) and Gerard Guiot (left) performing a stereotaxic functional procedure at Hopital Foch in Paris, 1961," there is a mistake; the correct term is "stereotactic," not "stereotaxic."

The word "stereotaxic" is derived from the Greek stereos, meaning solid or three-dimensional, and taxis, meaning an arrangement (as in "taxonomy"). Efforts are being made to encourage compliance from all journals and publishers to use the term stereotactic when applied to human stereotactic surgery, and not stereotaxic, which is the one still used for animal techniques. The publication of the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery is now called Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (1).

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1. Gildenberg PL: Stereotactic versus stereotaxic. Neurosurgery 32:965-966,1993.
2. Hardy J: Historical background of stereotactic surgery: Reflections on stereotactic surgery and the introduction of microelectrode recording in Montreal. Neurosurgery 54:1508-1511, 2004