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### **Cortical Motor Abnormalities in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Premovement Event-Related Potentials**

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Premovement brain potentials (ERPs) were recorded in patients with chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) and in controls. Participants pressed a reaction time button in response to infrequent high tones (targets) embedded in a series of low tones (nontargets). Targets were presented either after every 5th nontarget (FIXED condition) or randomly (RANDOM condition,  $P = .2$ ). CFS patients had significantly slowed reaction times and reduced amplitude of ERPs when compared to controls. We suggest abnormalities in motor cortical function are present in CFS and, as a consequent, cause slower responses and possibly influence the subjective experience of "fatigue."

**Key Words:** ERPs; fatigue; CFS.