(sometimes with urinary incontinence or tongue biting) or stereotyped movements in partial complex epilepsy (Chap. 445).

It is often helpful for the patient to complete a daily sleep log for 1–2 weeks to define the timing and amounts of sleep. When relevant, the log can also include information on levels of alertness, work times, and drug and alcohol use, including caffeine and hypnotics.

Polysomnography is necessary for the diagnosis of several disorders such as sleep apnea, narcolepsy, and periodic limb movement disorder. A conventional polysomnogram performed in a clinical sleep laboratory allows measurement of sleep stages, respiratory effort and airflow, oxygen saturation, limb movements, heart rhythm, and additional parameters. A home sleep test usually focuses on just respiratory measures and is helpful in patients with a moderate to high likelihood of having obstructive sleep apnea. The multiple sleep latency test (MSLT) is used to measure a patient's propensity to sleep during the day and can provide crucial evidence for diagnosing narcolepsy and some other causes of sleepiness. The maintenance of wakefulness test is used to measure a patient's ability to sustain wakefulness during the daytime and can provide important evidence for evaluating the efficacy of therapies for improving sleepiness in conditions such as narcolepsy and obstructive sleep apnea.

EVALUATION OF DAYTIME SLEEPINESS

Up to 25% of the adult population has persistent daytime sleepiness that impairs an individual's ability to perform optimally in school, at work, while driving, and in other conditions that require alertness. Sleepy students often have trouble staying alert and performing well in school, and sleepy adults struggle to stay awake and focused on their work. More than half of Americans have fallen asleep while driving. An estimated 1.2 million motor vehicle crashes per year are due to drowsy drivers, causing about 20% of all serious crash injuries and deaths. One needn't fall asleep to have an accident, as the inattention and slowed responses of drowsy drivers are a major contributor. Reaction time is equally impaired by 24 h of sleep loss as by a blood alcohol concentration of 0.10 g/dL.

Identifying and quantifying sleepiness can be challenging. First, patients may describe themselves as "sleepy," "fatigued," or "tired," and the meanings of these words may differ between patients. For clinical purposes, it is best to use the term "sleepiness" to describe a propensity to fall asleep; whereas "fatigue" is best used to describe a feeling of low physical or mental energy but without a tendency to actually sleep. Sleepiness is usually most evident when the patient is sedentary, whereas fatigue may interfere with more active pursuits. Sleepiness generally occurs with disorders that reduce the quality or quantity of sleep or that interfere with the neural mechanisms of arousal, whereas fatigue is more common in inflammatory disorders such as cancer, multiple sclerosis (Chap. 458), fibromyalgia (Chap. 396), chronic fatigue syndrome (Chap. 464e), or endocrine deficiencies such as hypothyroidism (Chap. 405) or Addison's disease (Chap. 406). Second, sleepiness can affect judgment in a manner analogous to ethanol, such that patients may have limited insight into the condition and the extent of their functional impairment. Finally, patients may be reluctant to admit that sleepiness is a problem because they may have become unfamiliar with feeling fully alert and because sleepiness is sometimes viewed pejoratively as reflecting poor motivation or bad sleep habits.

Table 38-1 outlines the diagnostic and therapeutic approach to the patient with a complaint of excessive daytime sleepiness.

To determine the extent and impact of sleepiness on daytime function, it is helpful to ask patients about the occurrence of sleep episodes during normal waking hours, both intentional and unintentional. Specific areas to be addressed include the occurrence of inadvertent sleep episodes while driving or in other safety-related settings, sleepiness while at work or school (and the relationship of sleepiness to work and school performance), and the effect of sleepiness on social and family life. Standardized questionnaires such as the Epworth Sleepiness Scale are often used clinically to measure sleepiness.

Eliciting a history of daytime sleepiness is usually adequate, but objective quantification is sometimes necessary. The MSLT measures a patient's propensity to sleep under quiet conditions. The test is performed after an overnight polysomnogram to establish that the patient has had an adequate amount of good-quality nighttime sleep. The MSLT consists of five 20-min nap opportunities every 2 h across the day. The patient is instructed to try to fall asleep, and the major endpoints are the average latency to sleep and the occurrence of REM sleep during the naps. An average sleep latency across the naps of less than 8 min is considered objective evidence of excessive daytime sleepiness. REM sleep normally occurs only during the nighttime sleep episode, and the occurrence of REM sleep in two or more of the MSLT naps provides support for the diagnosis of narcolepsy.

For the safety of the individual and the general public, physicians have a responsibility to help manage issues around driving in patients with sleepiness. Legal reporting requirements vary from state to state, but at a minimum, physicians should inform sleepy patients about their increased risk of having an accident and advise such patients not to drive a motor vehicle until the sleepiness has been treated effectively. This discussion is especially important for professional drivers, and it should be documented in the patient's medical record.

INSUFFICIENT SLEEP

Insufficient sleep is probably the most common cause of excessive daytime sleepiness. The average adult needs 7.5–8 h of sleep, but on

TABLE 38-1 EVALUATION OF THE PATIENT WITH EXCESSIVE DAYTIME SLEEPINESS

Findings on History and Physical Examination	Diagnostic Evaluation	Diagnosis	Therapy
Difficulty waking in the morning, rebound sleep on weekends and vacations with improvement in sleepiness	Sleep log	Insufficient sleep	Sleep education and behavioral modification to increase amount of sleep
Obesity, snoring, hypertension	Polysomnogram	Obstructive sleep apnea (Chap. 319)	Continuous positive airway pressure; upper airway surgery (e.g., uvulopalatopharyngoplasty); dental appliance; weight loss
Cataplexy, hypnogogic hallucinations, sleep paralysis	Polysomnogram and multiple sleep latency test	Narcolepsy	Stimulants (e.g., modafinil, methylphenidate); REM sleep-suppressing antidepressants (e.g., venlafaxine); sodium oxybate
Restless legs, kicking movements during sleep	Assessment for predisposing medical conditions (e.g., iron deficiency or renal failure)	Restless legs syndrome with or without periodic limb movements	Treatment of predisposing condition if possible; dopamine agonists (e.g., pramipexole, ropinirole)
Sedating medications, stimulant withdrawal, head trauma, systemic inflammation, Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders, hypothyroidism, encephalopathy	Thorough medical history and exam including detailed neurologic exam	Sleepiness due to a drug or medical condition	Change medications, treat underlying condition, consider stimulants