

Teaching Video NeuroImages: Oculopalatal myoclonus

A possible consequence of brainstem injury

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Figure Brain MRI, axial fluid-attenuated inversion recovery

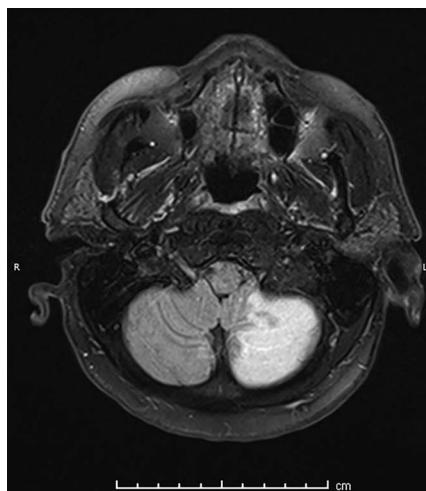


Image shows the patient's infarct, involving the caudal portion of the left cerebellar hemisphere. Area of involvement corresponds to posterior inferior cerebellar artery territory.

A 61-year-old man with previous left cerebellar infarct complained of double vision and dizziness several months postinfarct. Infarct is shown in the figure. Examination showed rotatory nystagmus in all directions of gaze, worse on left gaze (video 1). Oral examination showed palatal tremor (video 2). Oculopalatal tremor (OPT) is thought to result from interruption of connections between the red nucleus (midbrain), dentate nucleus (cerebellum), and inferior olive (medulla).^{1,2} The most common cause is brainstem infarction or hemorrhage,¹ but it has also been observed with multiple sclerosis and other inflammatory entities. OPT usually becomes apparent several months after the injury. Treatment may include gabapentin, memantine, benzodiazepines, and valproic acid.

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Author contributions

O. Lawal: study concept and design, acquisition of data, preparation and revision of manuscript.
A. Fisayo: clinical care of patient, acquisition of data, revision of manuscript for intellectual content, study supervision.

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Disclosure

The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript.
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