

Continuous facial myokymia in multiple sclerosis

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Abstract

Facial myokymia is a clinical sign that can occur as a manifestation of demyelinating lesions. As seen in our patient with multiple sclerosis, acute-onset continuous facial myokymia can be indicative of an active lesion and can have localizing value.

KEYWORDS

brainstem, facial myokymia, movement disorders, multiple sclerosis

A 54-year-old woman with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (MS) presented with 3 days of continuous facial “quivering” after self-discontinuing dimethyl fumarate. Examination revealed continuous right perioral myokymia (Video S1). Figure 1 shows her neuroimaging. She received intravenous methylprednisolone. At 1-month follow-up, facial myokymia (FM) had resolved and dimethyl fumarate was restarted.

Facial myokymia is an involuntary, abnormal activity consisting of undulating, vermicular movements.^{1,2} FM has been associated with lesions of the postnuclear, postgenu portion of the ipsilateral facial nerve intra-axially in the dorsolateral pontine tegmentum.¹ However, many cases show no intra-axial demyelination of the facial nerve.² In MS patients, FM is usually self-limited.²

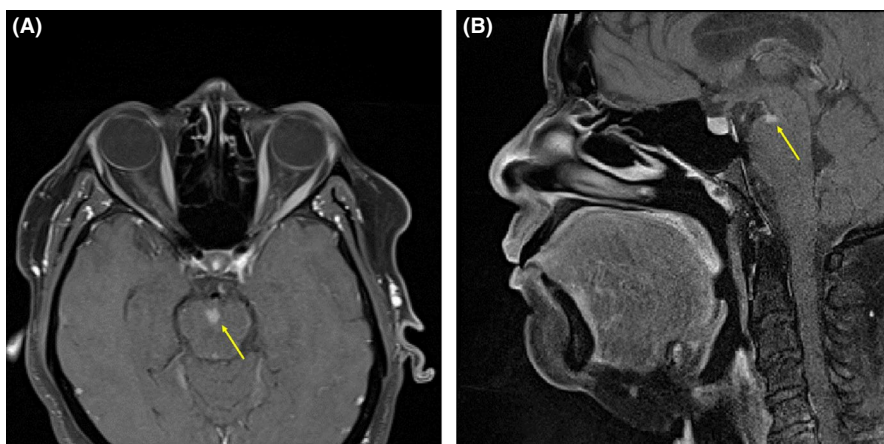


FIGURE 1 Axial (Panel A) and sagittal (Panel B) postgadolinium T1-weighted brain MRI revealed a new enhancing lesion in the right superior pons (arrows), ipsilateral to the patient's perioral myokymia

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

JLC: contributed to the case concept and design, acquired the data, interpreted the data, and wrote the manuscript. MFV: contributed to the case concept and design, acquired the data, interpreted the data, and wrote the manuscript.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section.

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