“Starfish” hand

Figure “Starfish” hand dystonia following a right middle cerebral artery stroke involving the caudate

VIDEO

Supplemental data at
www.neurology.org

A 57-year-old man with known right carotid occlusion had a right middle cerebral artery stroke involving the caudate head, perisylvian, and temporal-parietal-occipital watershed regions. This caused left arm weakness and gradually severe dystonia emerged in his left hand with spreading of his fingers in a “starfish” pattern (figure, video [www.neurology.org]). One series of botulinum toxin injections was moderately effective. In one study of 1,500 consecutive patients with stroke, 16 developed dystonia.¹ Infarcts in the caudate, putamen, or thalamus are most often associated with acquired hemidystonia likely due to disruption of striatal-thalamic interconnections.² Acquired dystonias, including poststroke dystonia, are relatively refractory to medical treatment, although botulinum toxin injections may be effective.

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