Teaching Video *NeuroImage*: Chvostek sign with Fahr syndrome in a patient with hypoparathyroidism

Sunil K. Narayan, DM
P. Sivaprasad, MD
Ram Niranjana Sahoo,
MD
V. Bhuvaneshwari, FRCR

Address correspondence and
reprint requests to Dr. Sunil K.
Narayan, Professor and Head of
the Department of Neurology,
Jawaharlal Institute of
Postgraduate Medical Education
and Research, Pondicherry, India
605 006
sunil.narayan@jipmer.edu.in
sknarayan@gmail.com

Figure 1 Chvostek sign: Repeated gentle taps in front of tragus over the superficial part of facial nerve elicits infatigable ipsilateral facial muscle contractions with each tap (see video)

A 17-year-old short-statured girl (figure 1) presented with seizures, progressive cataracts, and tetany. Further evaluation revealed positive Chvostek sign (video), cerebrostriothalamic calcifications or Fahr syndrome, persistent hypocalcemia (total serum calcium 6.5 [normal 9–10.5] mg/100 mL), and primary hypoparathyroidism (serum parathyroid hormone <3.0 [normal 12–72] pg/mL).

Chvostek sign, seen in hypocalcemia, hypomagnesemia, or alkalosis, is also reported in children with epilepsy.¹ Calcifications in Fahr syndrome (figure 2) are distinguishable from those of physiologic and

Figure 2 CT scan of the brain with plain axial cuts shows bilateral, symmetric, mirror-image cerebrostriothalamic calcifications (Fahr syndrome)

other causes, including hyperparathyroidism; phacomatoses; gliosis from CNS infections, trauma, or strokes; and neoplasms. Clinically, Fahr syndrome can be associated with rigidity, seizures, psychosis, and dementia. Short stature and primary hypoparathyroidism prompted investigations for a mitochondrial disorder,² but a muscle biopsy was normal.

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From the Department of Neurology (S.K.N., R.N.S.), Department of Internal Medicine (S.P.), and Department of Radiology (V.B.), Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry, India.

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