Palmocervical reflex

A hyperactive palmomental reflex?

An 85-year-old, right-handed, Caucasian man with a 14-year history of idiopathic Parkinson disease presented with progressive cognitive decline. An involuntary contraction of ipsilateral mentalis and platysma muscles was observed while stroking the patient's left thenar eminence. The common palmomental reflex was present on the right side (video on the *Neurology*[®] Web site at www.neurology.org).

The palmomental reflex is an involuntary contraction of the mentalis muscle with the stimulation of the thenar eminence. Its presence suggests the possibility of cerebral pathology.¹ Involvement of the platysma muscle may result from an activation of neighboring motor neuron pools comparable to pathologic spread.² This can be considered as palmomental reflex hyperactivity.

Chakorn Chansakul, MD, Mohamed Teleb, MD, Roberto Bompreszi, MD, PhD, Phoenix, AZ

Disclosure: Dr. Chansakul and Dr. Teleb report no disclosures. Dr. Bompreszi serves as PI for clinical trials supported by Genzyme Corporation, Novartis, Merck Serono, Biogen Idec, Genentech, Inc., and UCB; and received a 1-year clinical fellowship funded by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. Chakorn Chansakul, Barrow Neurological Institute, 350 West Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013; Chakorn.Chansakul@chw.edu

Supplemental data at
www.neurology.org

1. Owen G, Mulley GP. The palmomental reflex: a useful clinical sign? *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 2002;73:113–115.
2. Dick JP. The deep tendon and the abdominal reflexes. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 2003;74:150–153.

Neurology®

Palmocervical reflex: A hyperactive palmomental reflex?

Chakorn Chansakul, Mohamed Teleb and Roberto Bompreszi

Neurology 2010;74;91

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e3181c7daa3

This information is current as of December 28, 2009

Updated Information & Services	including high resolution figures, can be found at: http://n.neurology.org/content/74/1/91.full
Supplementary Material	Supplementary material can be found at: http://n.neurology.org/content/suppl/2009/12/27/74.1.91.DC1
References	This article cites 2 articles, 2 of which you can access for free at: http://n.neurology.org/content/74/1/91.full#ref-list-1
Subspecialty Collections	This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s): All Cognitive Disorders/Dementia http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/all_cognitive_disorders_dementia Assessment of cognitive disorders/dementia http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/assessment_of_cognitive_disorders_dementia Clinical neurology examination http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/clinical_neurology_examination
Permissions & Licensing	Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at: http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions
Reprints	Information about ordering reprints can be found online: http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise

Neurology® is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 1951, it is now a weekly with 48 issues per year. Copyright . All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0028-3878. Online ISSN: 1526-632X.