Electronic message ataxia in multiple system atrophy

Figure Patient's electronic communication

Capital letters are generated on this particular device by increasing pressure on keys and demonstrate an unusual manifestation of ataxia. (A) Original; (B) approximate translation into English with formatting preserved.

A 65-year-old patient with 5 years of progressive ataxia and dysarthria developed problems typing on his wireless electronic device when communicating with his consultant neurologist. Typing on his home computer was not affected. He was wheelchair-bound due to severe autonomic dysfunction resulting in syncope. Cognition was intact. There was no relevant family history and an extensive workup was negative. He was diagnosed with probable multiple system atrophy–cerebellar type.^{1,2} In the past year, he developed problems with typing on his wireless device (figure) with random use of capital letters and punctuation, which may be a manifestation of his severe ataxia.

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