Teaching NeuroImages:

Postictal subconjunctival hemorrhages and skin petechiae

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Figure Facial petechial rash and bilateral subconjunctival hemorrhages following a secondarily generalized tonic-clonic seizure

A 45-year-old man was evaluated for a seizure disorder of unknown cause characterized by secondarily generalized tonic-clonic seizures.

He reported bilateral subconjunctival hemorrhages and facial petechiae immediately following most of his seizures (figure). These physical findings were the only indications that a seizure had occurred when the ictus was in sleep.

Although petechial rash is described as a rare seizure-induced physical finding,^{1,2} subconjunctival hemorrhages on awakening may be another surrogate marker of otherwise unrecognized nocturnal convulsions.

The likely mechanism is an ictal Valsalva maneuver during the tonic phase of a generalized tonic-clonic seizure resulting in capillary rupture.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Rigby: drafting/revising the manuscript. Dr. Sadler: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, study supervision.

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