

# Teaching NeuroImages: Severe spasms resembling status dystonicus as an unusual presentation of stiff-person syndrome

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A 20-year-old man presented with frequent episodes of generalized rigidity. He had an 18-month history of painful muscle spasms, diaphoresis, and falls. These episodes were associated with anxiety related to pain and the bizarre, unpredictable nature of the symptoms. The patient was admitted with severe tonic spasm episodes lasting for up to 5 minutes, which were initially thought secondary to status dystonicus (video).

CSF analysis revealed an elevated GAD-65 titer (116) and a diagnosis of stiff-person syndrome was made.<sup>1,2</sup> The episodes were refractory to pharmacologic therapy, requiring use of paralyzing agents and IV immunoglobulin with marked improvement in his condition.<sup>1,2</sup>

## Author contributions

D.G. Di Luca and S. Bette: review of the literature and drafting the case report. C. Luca: patient consent and video footage. C. Luca and C. Singer: critical review of the manuscript and final approval of the version to be published.

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## Disclosure

The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to [Neurology.org/N](https://Neurology.org/N) for full disclosures.

## References

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