

**Procerus sign in progressive supranuclear palsy**

S. Romano, MD, C. Colosimo, MD, Rome, Italy

Progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) is characterized by vertical supranuclear gaze palsy, axial rigidity, akinesia, dysarthria, fronto-limbic dementia, and postural instability. A typical facial expression, described as “astonished,” “worried,” or “reptile-like,” has been described; this peculiar expression, so common in PSP and different from the lack of facial expression (hypomimia) typically seen in patients with PD, has not been well characterized. The expression may be due to a focal dystonia of the procerus muscle as well as to a combination of very reduced blinking, spasticity, lid retraction, and gaze palsy. Procerus is a facial muscle that originates in the nasal bone and inserts in the skin in the center of the forehead between the eyebrows; it acts forming vertical wrinkles in the glabella region and bridge of the nose (figure, top). The figure (bottom) shows two patients with clinically probable PSP according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke–SPSP criteria. Both patients show this typical sign, occurring without concomitant blepharospasm. Indeed, the wrinkling is present with open and closed eyes. This sign could be called “the procerus sign.”

Procerus sign in progressive supranuclear palsy
S. Romano and C. Colosimo

Neurology 2001;57;1928
DOI 10.1212/WNL.57.10.1928

This information is current as of November 27, 2001

Updated Information & Services including high resolution figures, can be found at: http://n.neurology.org/content/57/10/1928.full

References This article cites 2 articles, 1 of which you can access for free at: http://n.neurology.org/content/57/10/1928.full#ref-list-1

Citations This article has been cited by 3 HighWire-hosted articles: http://n.neurology.org/content/57/10/1928.full#otherarticles

Subspecialty Collections This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s):
Progressive supranuclear palsy http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/progressive_supranuclear_palsy

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