Teaching Video NeuroImages: Tongue myokymia following head and neck radiotherapy for nasopharyngeal carcinoma

A 39-year-old woman with nasopharyngeal carcinoma underwent partial resection along with head and neck radiation therapy. Approximately 10 months later she developed progressive difficulty swallowing and facial spasms. Neurologic examination was significant for dysarthric speech and prominent rippling and wavelike movements of the tongue (see video on the Neurology® Web site at www.neurology.org). Needle electromyography revealed myokymic discharges of the tongue in addition to the right-sided facial muscles.

Radiation therapy may damage the hypoglossal nerve with subsequent hyperexcitability of the axon membrane and cause myokymia of the tongue, similar to myokymic discharges associated with brachial plexopathies after radiation therapy.1,2

REFERENCES
Teaching Video NeuroImages: Tongue myokymia following head and neck radiotherapy for nasopharyngeal carcinoma
Richard A. Rison and Said R. Beydoun
Neurology 2009;72:e65
DOI 10.1212/01.wnl.0000345661.85492.6b

This information is current as of April 6, 2009

Updated Information & Services
including high resolution figures, can be found at:
http://n.neurology.org/content/72/14/e65.full

Supplementary Material
Supplementary material can be found at:
http://n.neurology.org/content/suppl/2009/04/11/72.14.e65.DC1

References
This article cites 2 articles, 1 of which you can access for free at:
http://n.neurology.org/content/72/14/e65.full#ref-list-1

Citations
This article has been cited by 1 HighWire-hosted articles:
http://n.neurology.org/content/72/14/e65.full#otherarticles

Subspecialty Collections
This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s):
All Neuromuscular Disease
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/all_neuromuscular_disease

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