Ocular flutter as the first manifestation of Lyme disease

A 33-year-old man with a history of tick bites presented with bursts of involuntary horizontal conjugate saccades, myoclonic head jerks, and truncal ataxia. A cerebral MRI was normal, and no antineuronal antibodies were found (anti-Hu, anti-Yo, anti-Ri). Despite negative serum antibodies for *Borrelia burgdorferi*, acute neuroborreliosis was suspected because of lymphocytic mild meningitis (19 white cells/mm³, protein 0.79 g/L) and apparent intrathecal synthesis of *B burgdorferi* IgM antibodies (ELISA titers 6.17, normal <0.3), although false-positive IgM serologies can occur in this setting. Intravenous ceftriaxone treatment resulted in dramatic clinical improvement within a few weeks.

In ocular flutter, saccadic intrusions are purely horizontal (see video), while in opsoclonus-myoclonus, a similar condition, they are multidirectional. Cerebral MRI studies are usually normal, lesions involving omnipause neurons in the pons, or the fastigial nucleus in the cerebellum being exceptional.

Jesper Gyllenborg, MD, Dan Milea, MD, PhD, Copenhagen, Denmark

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Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. Jesper Gyllenborg, Department of Neurology, Glostrup Hospital, University of Copenhagen, 57, Nordre Ringvej, DK-2600 Glostrup, Denmark; jesper@gyllenborg.dk

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Jesper Gyllenborg and Dan Milea

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