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.

REFERENCES
Teaching NeuroImages: Postictal subconjunctival hemorrhages and skin petechiae
Heather Rigby and R. Mark Sadler

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