Eye closure and oculopalatal tremor

A 59-year-old man with right tectal arteriovenous malformation complicated by brainstem hemorrhage was referred for unusual eye movements. He demonstrated rhythmic movements of face, larynx, and palate with horizontal saccadic intrusions and small amplitude, pendular oscillations of the left eye. Only active eye closure brought out large amplitude globe oscillations (video on the Neurology® Web site at www.neurology.org). Oculopalatal tremor (OPT) is characterized by smooth, aperiodic, low frequency (1–2 Hz) oscillations of eyes, palate, and occasionally other muscles,1,2 and develops after a lesion in the Guillain-Mollaret triangle.1 Eye oscillations may be brought out and augmented by active eye closure in establishing diagnosis of OPT.

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