Teaching Video NeuroImages: Callosal apraxia
A straightforward model of ideomotor apraxia

A 57-year-old right-handed man complained of difficulty using his hands post–coronary artery bypass graft (figure). Neurologic examination revealed signs of callosal disconnection without hemiparesis. When asked to perform limb gestures such as “brush your teeth” or “wave goodbye,” the right hand performed flawlessly whereas the left hand was severely apraxic (video on the Neurology® Web site at www.neurology.org).

Apraxia can be a confusing topic because of overlapping definitions and subtypes. This case illustrates the primary observable manifestation: a previously learned, skilled movement becomes peculiar looking. This occurs because motor memory degrades or becomes inaccessible. In this case the right hemisphere, disconnected from motor programs stored on the left, generates exemplary apraxic movement.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
Dr. Jablonski: drafting and revising the manuscript. Dr. Antoniello: drafting and revising the manuscript and videos.

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The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

REFERENCES

Figure MRI of the patient

Diffusion-weighted images show a high signal intensity lesion in the body and splenium of the corpus callosum, consistent with embolic infarction of the pericallosal artery, a complication of the coronary artery bypass graft (CABG).
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