Volitional palatal tremor

A 19-year-old heavy metal singer with a history of congenital micrognathia, posttraumatic stress disorder, and anxiety developed isolated movements of the soft palate after lower mandible corrective surgery (osteotomy and genioplasty). He endorsed ear clicks and control over the movements. On examination, there were rhythmic movements of the distal soft palate, characteristic of essential palatal tremor (EPT). However, their change in frequency and amplitude on command (video on the Neurology® Web site at www.neurology.org) indicated volitional control. Unlike psychogenic EPT, whereby variability and entrainability must be present1 and endorsed as involuntary (“a-volitional”), patients with volitional EPT admit to full control and no disability (figure). They have also been categorized as the “voluntary/special skill” EPT variant.2 No neurologic investigations are warranted in patients with volitional EPT.

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Electronic media in neurology education: Progress, promise, and pitfalls (See p. e47)

This podcast begins and closes with Dr. Robert Gross, Editor-in-Chief, briefly discussing highlighted articles from the August 20, 2013, issue of Neurology. In the second segment, Dr. Andy Southerland talks with Dr. Shaheen Lakhan about his paper on electronic media in neurology education. Dr. Adam Numis then reads the e-Pearl of the week about hemifacial spasm. In the next part of the podcast, Dr. Brandy Matthews focuses her interview with Dr. Bill Seeley on diagnostic testing and genetics in fronto-temporal degeneration. Disclosures can be found at www.neurology.org.

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Nosography of the "essential": Volitional palatal tremor
Jose Biller and Alberto J. Espay
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