Teaching Video NeuroImages: Clonus of the lower jaw

An old sign that comes back

We report the case of a 68-year-old woman with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) presenting with a 1-year history of progressive dysarthria with unintelligible speech, dysphagia, muscular wasting, and a troublesome chin tremor with difficulty in chewing. At clinical examination, our attention was drawn to clonus of the lower jaw (video on the Neurology® Web site at Neurology.org). Exaggerated jaw jerk is due to supranuclear lesion of the trigeminal nerve and it may occur in ALS.1 However, although the first description of clonus of the lower jaw in ALS dates back to 1886,2 this sign is not frequently noticed in clinical practice.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
Dr. Rosa Iodice: acquisition of data, writing of manuscript, approval of data. Dr. Fiore Manganelli: acquisition of data, writing of manuscript, approval of data. Dr. Raffaele Dubbioso: acquisition of data, writing of manuscript, approval of data. Dr. Lucia Ruggiero: acquisition and approval of data. Dr. Lucio Santoro: approval of data and study supervision.

STUDY FUNDING
No targeted funding reported.

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

REFERENCES
Teaching Video NeuroImages: Clonus of the lower jaw: An old sign that comes back
Rosa Iodice, Fiore Manganelli, Raffaele Dubbioso, et al.
Neurology 2014;82:e96
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000000221

This information is current as of March 17, 2014